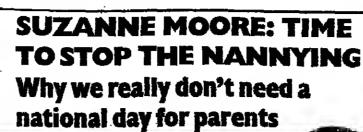
IS ALEC STEWART AWINNER? ... or is England's new

captain just a stopgap? SPORT, BACK PAGE



COMMENT, PAGE 21



THE MAN WHO MADE **MADONNA A GOTH** ... and his new fashion empire at Balenciaga

FASHION, PAGE 17

Newspaper of the Year for photographs INDEP

> Wednesday 6 May 1998 45p (tR50p) No 3,603

Revealed: FO links to mercenaries

and Fran Abrams

SENIOR Foreign Office officials met merceoaries planning to help overthrow the Sierra Leone regime just five weeks before an embargo- trying to reinstate the former Presihusting shipment of arms was delivered to anti-government forces.

The Independent has learnt that officials from Sandline loternational Ltd - who describe themselves as "military consultants" - met officials led by Craig Murray, deputy head of the FO's Africa (equatorial) departmeot. Sandline was represented at the meeting by Lt-Col Tim Spicer, at no point was ministerial approval

Army spokesman in Bosnia. Sandline has claimed that while it breached the UN arms embargo by shipping arms to Sierra Leooe, the delivery had been sanctioned by the Government. The arms were used by forces deot Ahmad Tejan Kabbah. He was finally reinstated in March this year.

A criminal investigation has been launched by officers from the National Intelligeoce Service - the investigative arm of HM Customs and Excise - into the shipment and into the role played by British officials and Ministers. The FO has insisted that a Falklands veteran and the former for Sandline's actions ever given.

Penfold, the High Commissioner for Sierra Leone, did meet Sandline officials, but yesterday refused to comment on whether other officials met was uoable to comment on the advice of government lawyers. Mr Murray, who was appointed last year, also refused to comment.

Sandline also refused to comment. The Independent understands that three occasions, at least one of which took place at FO premises. There was meetings is understood to have tak-

The FO has admitted that Peter en place on 19 January. Up to 30 tons of arms - provided by Sandline - were flown to Sierra Leone from Bulgaria on 21 February. Training was also supplied by Sandline to assist up to mercenaries. A spokesman said he 40,000 pro-Kabbah milina and the Nigerian army who also supported the former President.

Yesterday the row over the possihle involvement of the Government deepened when Michael Howard, the shadow Foreign Secretary demandofficials met Lt-Col Spicer oo up to ed that the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, make a statement on the matter. "There are many questions that also a meeting at Sandline's London need to be answered," he said. "When beadquarters in Chelsea. One of the did Mr Cook first know of these allegations? When did Mr Cook's of-

ficials first know of these allegations. What action did he take?"

However, Tony Lloyd, a Foreign Office minister, yesterday said Mr Cook and his team were kept in the dark over Sandline's involvement. He told a Commons select committee that although a Customs investigation was launched in February, ministers did not know about it until last weekend.

He told the committee that in March he had asked his officials about newspaper claims that Sandline helped to reinstate President Kabbah, but had still not been told about the Customs inquiry.

Last March he told the Commons

the "counter coup" had been organised. Yesterday David Willshire, the Conservative MP for Spellthorne, told him at the committee hearing: "I started out feeling angry. I now feel sorry for you. I think you have been hung out to dry by officials. Time may show us that you have been hung out to dry by the

Foreign Secretary." President Kahbah was ousted in May 1997 in a bloody coup by Johnny Paul Koroma. He spent his exile in Conakry, the capital of neighbouring Guinea where the British diplomatic mission led by Mr Penfold dent Kahhah to impound the had also transferred. Mr Penfold is weapons so their origin could be

this week about his involvement and the possibility that be asked Sandline to come in. On 12 March Mr Lloyd reported to parliament a speech by President Kabbah on the day he was returned to power in which he said: "The British Prime Minister and his government also deserve our special thanks for their support and assistance in every respect."

Last night Lord Avebury, the Liberal Democrat peer who brought Sandline's involvement to the attention of the Foreign Office, said Robin Cook should now ask Presithat Britain did not support the way to be questioned by Customs officers traced through their serial numbers.

Albright ups the stakes for peace

CONFRONTED by the total collapse of the Middle East "peace process" in London ves-State, Madeleine Albright, last night took the dangerous gamble of buying precious time by upping the stakes.

She offered the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and the PLO chairman, Yasser Arafat, a meeting with President Clinton in Washington in five days' time - on coodition they accept American proposals that include a move to final status talks and probably severe restriction on the amount of land tled oo a 13 per cent (Israel the Palestinians can ever hope to regain from the Israelis.

The offer-totally deforming the original 1993 Oslo agreement which envisages a series of extensive Israeli withdrawals before discussions on Jerusalem, settlements and refugees - is a sign. of Mrs Albright's desperation. Indeed, it is a sign of Mr Arafat's desperation that he appears to have accepted it. Mr Netanyahu returned to Israel yesterday "to consult with his cabinet" - but without accepting.

There was some confusion as to whether Mrs Albright - who was both confused and hesitant in replies to journalists in London last night - understood the desire for "peace" by turning up. announced. A later Downing Street briefing suggested that the move to what the Secretary permanent status negotiations" included talks oo further Israeli "withdrawals" (sic), security and "confidence-building measures". But that is oot what the permanent status negotiations in the Oslo agreement say.

The original document lists the topics for decision as Jerusalem, refugees, settle-

of quote call FREE 00

50 40 84

ments, security arrangements borders, relations and cooperation with other neighbours, and other issues of common interest."

For almost a year, Mr Neterday, the US Secretary of tanyahu himself has been pressing the Palestinians to move straight to the final-status talks. meanwhile dropping discussions of further withdrawals.

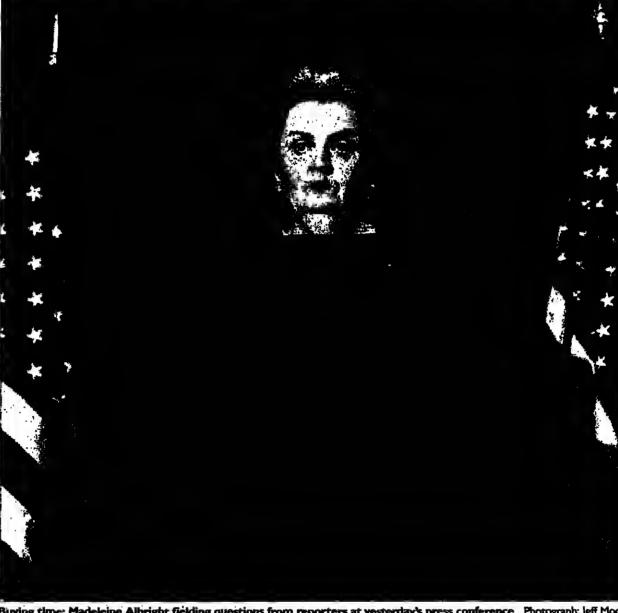
Is this really what Mr Arafat has accepted? As one Palestinian journalist put it last night: "Poor Abu Amar [Arafar's name], he'll never sell this to the Palestinians."

During the day, it was said that the Americans - whose compromise proposal for the next Israeli withdrawal had setwants only 9 per cent) evacuation - had produced a new Israeli figure of 11 per cent. Palestinian sources suggested that the Americans urged Arafat to accept the oew statistic with a "promise" to achieve another 2 per cent withdrawal afterwards. The PLO turned the offer down.

In reality, Mrs Albright - and Tony Blair - have understood that Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat agree on only one thing: a desire that the other should be blamed for the destruction of the Middle East "peace process". The invitation to Washington is thus intended to force both sides to show their

full significance of what she had . Mrs Albright momentarily appeared to support this idea by threatening that "if agreement is not reached, we will have to of State called accelerated examine our approach to the peace process." But fear not, she then added that "we are oot going to walk away from a peace process because it's important to the US, to Israel and to our friends in the Middle East". In the Middle East, however, events have a habit of taking over when negotiations collapse.

Albright's fear, page 10



Buying time: Madeleine Albright fielding questions from reporters at yesterday's press conference Photograph: Jeff Moore

Protestors plan to run Brum off the road

Home Affairs Correspondent

MILITANT anti-road protesters are planning to hijack one of the greatest days in the cronies" with custard pies. history of Birmingham.

As world leaders convene for the G8 Summit in the city in ten days' time, it is claimed that thousands of protesters from the Reclaim the Streets movement will be attempting to crippie power themselves." Birmingham's transport infrastructure.

The radical environmental group, which is dedicated to London. Three years ago, prooverthrowing the "cult of the motor car", has pledged to traffic with mobile sound systems and performance artists.

the Streets said the action, titled "Gyrate not G8", would have a mischievous edge with clowns trying to ambush government leaders and their "corporate

He said: "In Birmingham there will be eight men deciding what is going to happen to the rest of the world. This action will give ordinary people the experience of taking some

It is not an idle threat. Previous actions by Reclaim the Streets have created chaos in testers put down carpets and food stalls in Upper Street, Isblockade roads and obstruct lington, one of Britain's busiest roads. As traffic tailbacks built up, an armoured personnel car-A spokesman for Reclaim rier broadcast music by Jimi



Hendrix. Other actions have seen Camdeo High Street, north London, blockaded for the day, and the M41 motorway in west London occupied by

thousands of protesters on bi-

Ironically for a city which has long celebrated its links with the motor industry, Birmingham has recently redesigned much of its city centre to cater for pedestrians.

But the greening inidative did oot impress Reclaim the Streets. "Pedestrianisation is not the answer," said the spokesman. "We oeed to tackle the root causes of traffic."

West Midlands Police and Birmingham City Council are aware of the planned protest and are taking contingency action. A police spokesman said: "Any lawful protest we have no problem with. But we have contingencies should they be-

come unlawful."

British team leads race for cancer 'cure'

By Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

BRITISH scientists expect to beat American colleagues to be the first to test a new approach to cancer treatment in humans development for the Cancer Rewhich works by cutting the search Campaign, said: "We blood supply to the tumour.

Fifty patients will be selected at Mount Vernoo hospital, Middlesex, to evaluate the approach, which attracted atteotioo at the weekend after US scientists revealed its success against tumours in mice. It featured angiostatin and endostatin, which, when giveo in combination, target the blood supply to the tumour, cutting off nutrieots it occds to survive and grow. The drugs appear to be effective against all solid tumours including breast, colon, and lung, and differ from cooventional chemotherapy, which

The work, the culmination of 30 years' research, was described as remarkable by Richard Klausner, head of the National Cancer Institute, who said he was giving it priority for of Entremed, the company hop-

ing to market the drugs. But yesterday it hecame clear the Mouot Vernon team. based at the Cancer Research Campaign's Gray Laboratories, is doing almost ideotical work and expects to begin human clinical trials this year, be-

fore the Americans.

The team announced a year ago that tests on mice using the drug combretastatin had shown it selectively attacked blood vessels supplying tumours. David Secher, director of drug have speot the last 12 mooths preparing for clinical trials and we hope to start them before the end of the year ... But it is far too early to say whether it is going to be effective. To hail it as a hreakthrough would be irresponsible."

About 30 patients would be given the drug in the first phase to test its safety and set the right dose. That trial, lasting a year to 18 months, would be followed by a second-phase trial involving a similar number of patients over six to 12 mooths which would test its efficacy. "We would hope at the end of that directly attacks the cancer cells. time to have some indication of whether the drug is active," Dr Secher said.

The US research has been led by Judah Folkman, of Boston Children's hospital, who has worked on angiogenesis development. This triggered a the growth of blood vessels - for fivefold leap in the share price 30 years. Dr Secher said: "He has been doing excellent work

... but go one took much notice until oow. We in Britain may eod up starting human clinical trials earlier but we do not see it as a competition. We want to evaluate whether angiogenesis inhibition plays a role in the treatment of cancer.'

Hamish McRae, page 21

loday's news

Vatican mystery

tion by offering an explanation for the murder of the oewly ap-

the Papal guard. Picasso sting

A professional cat burglar, whose victims allegedly included Sophia Loren and Elizabeth Taylor, came out of retirement to steal a Picasso only to be arrested to a sting.

Stephen Goodwin writes what could be his last diary from Base Camp at Everest before the pointed captain commander of push for the mountain's 8,848m summit of Everest. Page 9

Everest push



INSIDE GUIDE: WEATHER, P2 ■ CROSSWORDS, P30 AND EYE P10 ■ TODAY'S TELEVISION, EYE P12 ■ FULL CONTENTS, P2

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TOMORROW

■ He's taken Manhattan: New York acclaims British artist Howard Hodgkin

The boy from Ipanema: Marcos Vaile, king of Bossa Nova. comes to town

Education special: Open Eye-your guide to all the Open University's courses Plus take your

pick of the best

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CONTENTS

News Foreign Theatre Features **Obituaries** Comment **Business** Unit Trusts Crosswords 30 & The Eye 10 TV & radio



Ofsted 'fails to improve exam results'

SCHOOL inspections by the Office for Standards in Education make little or no contribution to improving exam results, according to an analysis of official figures released last night.

The figures, based on answers to parliamentary questions, reveal that in most cases schools that have not been inspected make better progress in improving GCSE examination esults than those that have.

Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat's education spokesman said that the difference in the who published the analysis, accused Ofsted of failing to carry out its job of school improvement. Critics of the standards watchdog argue that its approach is too threatening and punitive to be effective in im-

Chief Inspector of Schools and in September 1993. It comhead of Ofsted strongly defended its five-year record and rate of improvement between the inspected and uninspected schools was insignificant.

The analysis looked at the average GCSE score - where an A grade is worth 10 points - for all secondary schools during the first four years of secondary

But Chris Woodhead, the school inspections which began pared the progress of schools that had been inspected with those that had not.

The average GCSE point score of pupils in about 800 schools first inspected in 1993-4 went up by 2.1 points in the subsequent two years. Over three years it went up by 2.6.

schools at least. Ofsted is failing But the pupils in the 900 schools not inspected during in its mission. Once again evi-

ger improvement - up 2.3 points in 1995 and 2.8 in 1996.

Mr Foster, who analysed the Department for Education data with Charles Bell of the education pressure group Article 26, said: "Ofsted's mission statement is 'improvement through inspection'. It is clear from our analysis that, for secondary

calls into question Ofsted's approach. There is an urgent need for an independent study into the value for money provided by the

The Government's spending watchdog, the National Audit Of-

chief inspector and his team."

fice, has said that it is considering an investigation into Ofsted. Mr Bell said: "Our analysis shows that it is possible to iden-

those three years showed a big- dence has been provided that when we do, Ofsted is found to

be wanting." Ofsted said that it bad never claimed a link between an inspection and immediate

improvement. Mr Woodhead said: "This sensational and simplistic analysis does not constitute a serious contribution to the debate about inspection. It is statistically suspect and conceptually tify the effects of Ofsted. And naive."

IRA plot to murder **Charles**

By Alan Murdoch ın Dublin

A SELF-CONFESSED high-level informer in the IRA told a Dublin court how he had been sent to plan the murder of the Prince and Princess of Wales at a London theatre in 1983 and lead a bombing campaign in British seaside resorts.

Sean O'Callaghan, who described himself as a former bead of the IRA's Southern Command, also recalled attending a Dublin IRA army council meeting in 1985 with senior figures in the current leadership of Sinn Fein.

O'Callaghan, 42, pleaded guilty in 1990 to the murders in 1974 of Ulster Defence Regiment soldier Eva Martin during an attack on a Royal Ulster Constabulary barracks in Tyrone, and special branch officer Peter Flanagan. shot in an Omagh pub. O'Callaghan served eight years in prison.

He earlier testified that he joined the Provisionals in 1970 at the age of 15, operating in Tyrone then Fermanagh, but resigned in 1975, living in England until 1979. He then rejoined in 1979 as a garda informer intent on undermining the organisation. He bas cited blatant sectarianism in IRA ranks as the reason for his about-turn.

He was testifying for the Sunday Times in its appeal against a libel award to a County Louth farmer, Thomas "Slab" Murphy. In 1985 the newspaper described Murphy as IRA director of operations in Northern Ireland.

O'Callaghan was also to plan a seaside resort bombing campaign. He said that it was through his leaking details to authorities that the planned royal assassinations at the Dominion Theatre in London was aborted. The seaside bombs failed to explode.

Curlisio



Back home: Ben, David and Carolyn Mitchell at a press conference at Gatwick yesterday after their kidnap ordeal in the Yemen. Their

relief at being released was tempered by news that Mr Mitchell's father had died during their captivity

Police call for national DNA register

By Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

A NATIONAL DNA database for every man and woman in Britain would save lives and cut crime, a senior police officer will advise the Home Office today.

Chief Superintendent Peter Gammon, president of the Police Superintendents' Association, wants the Government to consider taking genetic "fingerprints" from the entire population.

The Home Office yesterday indi-

of cost and infringement of civil lib-

At present, there are about 250,000 DNA profiles stored on computer, mainly from offences involving violence, burglary, and sexual as-Chief Supt Gammon, who is to

meet Alun Michael, the Home Office minister, today, said: "I am asking for an examination of the issue of setting up a national DNA database for all the population. There are potentials here that we need to consider. In the cated that it would be prepared to dis- investigation of major crime, DNA is cuss the idea, although there is becoming more and more important,

expected to be opposition on grounds and it is a very costly process to take 'held on the database, according to the samples from people, process them, and compare them with samples we may find at the scene of a major crime.

"So if we set up a national database, we make investigation of major crime more efficient, and there will be cost savings. You have serial killers on the loose, serial rapists - if you can identify them at their first offence, we can save people's lives."

Af present, the national DNA database is limited to people convicted or suspected of offences. The datahase is currently making more than 300 matches a week between samples crime scenes and samples held on the found at crime scenes and DNA Forensic Science Service's database.

Forensic Science Service.

The proposal was criticised by buman rights group Liberty as "unhalanced, misguided and wrong". ■ Eight "serious security breaches" in

two years at the Government's forensic science laboratories saw evidence destroyed in more than 200 criminal cases and more than six kilos of illegal drugs stolen, the National Audit Office reports today. But it also praises major breakthroughs in the use of DNA profiling, with more than 20,000 matches between samples left at

Gary Glitter faces more sex charges

By Diana Blamires

THE ROCK star Gary Glitter has been charged with a further five sexual offences, Avon and Somerset police said last night. Glitter - whose real name is Paul Gadd - is accused of four offences of indecently assaulting a girl.

Police said that one charge dates from 1976 and the others relate to alleged incidents between 1980 and 1983. The 54-year-old Seventies star. who lives in London, has also been charged with another sexual assault on a girl. He has been bailed to appear before North Avon magistrates . court on 18 May.

The singer already faces 50 charges relating to indecent images of children allegedly found stored on a computer be took for repair. Glitter was arrested last November after staff at PC World in Bristol allegedly discovered the pornographic images.

Glitter, was released on bail while police inquiries were made. He was mterviewed again in March after returning from a three-month holiday in Cuba, when officers charged him under the Child Protection Act 1978 with 50 counts of making indecent pseudo-photographs of children under the age of 16.

He was also charged with 50 alternative counts of possessing indecent photographs of children, and released on bail to appear at North Avon magistrates court on 18 May. Mr Glitter's lawyer, Henri Brand-

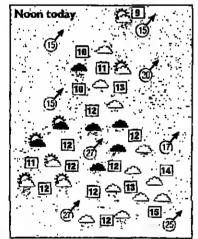
man said his client, who had attended a police station yesterday to face the charges, "vigorously protests his innocence".

"In view of the nature of the charges, the law does not permit us to make any further comment."

> just not how the seasons work. Croatia's "May the sun

never rise" and the Macedonian entry "Somebody stop" the dawn" similarly appear to cherish unrealistic dreams. The Swedish song is also con-

WEATHER



Heavy rain over Northern keland will soon clear to leave a mixture of sharp, blustery showers and sunny intervals. Scotland will start dry and bright with just a heavy rain from the west spreading across all areas. England and Wales will be largely cloudy with most places seeing rain at some time during the day, and there'll be some heavy outbreaks in the north. However, the south will become dry.

Outlook for the next few days Thursday will be similar with more rain for most areas, heaviest in the north. Some southern areas of England may end up dry. Alter that England and Wales will see a vast improvement as rain moves away northwards but that means another couple of cloudy, rainy days for become dry, bright and very warm with some sunshine but thundery showers are likely later Salurday.

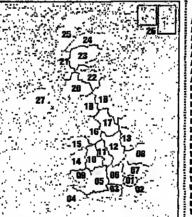
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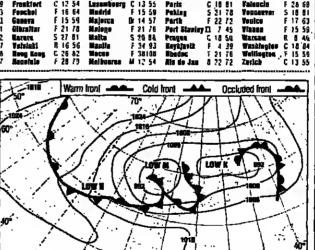
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Atlantic chart,

today

Link III will still north and fill.





HARTSTON WEATHER WISE

MORE THAN balf the lyrics to be heard in the Eurovision Song Contest on Saturday mention aspects of the weather. After climinating repetitions, we find two references to 'weather', one to 'clouds', and one to 'summer'. 'Sky' (or 'skies'), 'sun' and 'storm' appear four times, but first place is shared by 'wind' and 'rain' each occurring five times.

I fear we must again award ever you said" chorus. That's down and it's about to rain".



fusing, when it says: "The beavy clouds drifted away into the winds". Surely, even in Sweden, clouds cannot drift against the wind. The UK entry is the most autumnal: "Leaves are falling ... I would drive through the rain ... through the storm I

call your name" though cailing while driving through a storm seems rather fruitless. The Netherlands begins: "Holland was just cool and cold/And especially the weather/The wind was never still" - a good description of the possibly windy conditions. over flat terrain.

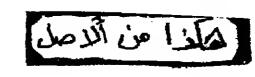
The Estonians promise to "challenge every storm that comes along", a more upbeat message than the Poles' "Your words bring out a melody, but all I hear is rain". The Pornul points to Norway for tuguese are wandering under Summer for Ever and its a clear blue sky. In Hungary, "oh, oh, oh, oh, Summer for however, "the sun is going

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Murder at the Vatican leaves Pope baffled

By Anne Hanley in Rome

PATHOLOGISTS yesterday removed twn hullets from the body nf Alois Estermann, 44, the newlyappointed captain commander of the Vatican's Swiss Guard who was killed on Mnnday night in what the Pope described as a "humanly incomprehensihle" incident

If the Pope was baffled by the killing, not so his spokesman Joaquin Navarro Valis who broke with normal practice and offered an explanation at the same time at the deaths of Mr Estermann, his wife, Gladys Meza Romero, and a 23-year-old guard, Cedric Inrnay, were annunced. The information which has emerged up to this point," Mr Navarro Valls told a midnight press conference, "allows for the theory of a fit of madness by Vice-Corporal Tornay."

Yesterday, evidence emerged to back up this theory. From such a traditinnally secretive organisation as the Vatican, such npenness left many commentators wondering what the Holy See was trying to hide.

The deaths, the first inside the affected his state of mind. walls of the Vatican in centuries, occurred at around 9pm nn Monday. Seven hours earlier, Mr Estermann had been appointed commander-inchief of the Swiss Guard, the military corps responsible for the Pope's personal safety and security within the Vatican state.

The wife of another Swiss guard whn lives in the apartment next door to the Estermanns heard loud poises, and ran out of her flat to find the door ajar," Mr Navarro Valls said.

Inside, she found three bodies, Vatican doctors and security forces were called, Mr Estermann, his wife and Tornay were declared dead and Tornay's service pistol was found beneath his body with five hullets missing.

As presented by Mr Navarro Valls, the case against Tornay seems

watertight. In February, after three years in the Guard, the vice-corporal received a "polite but firm" letter from Mr Estermann - at the time the acting commander - reprimanding him for unacceptable conduct, and in particular for failing to show up in harracks nne night.

This, the Vatican press office chief said, led Tornay to complain frequently in fellow guards about his treatment. Over the past few days, nn discovering he was not included on a list of guards to be honoured by the Pope at a ceremony due in take place today, Thrnay's lamentatinns became more hitter. On Mnnday. evening, an hour and a half before the shootings took place, the vice-corporal banded a letter to a friend, telling him to make sure it reached his parents should anything happen to him. The contents were not disclosed by the Vatican.

Mr Navarro Valls suggested the vice-corporal's recent break-up with his Roman girlfriend, his difficult character, and other "small incidents" which can sometimes "explode into something illogical", could have

But this did not reconcile with statements from others who knew and worked with him, "Cedric Tornay was an extremely normal boy and I really find it very difficult to conceive of him having a fit of madness," said the Swiss Guard until 1995.

The Holy See's uncharacteristic haste to provide a plausible explaold hands openly doubting the sincerity of the move.

nay is being taken in vain, and he was not responsible for this "murder-suicide", the killer is still at large. And



Gunned down: Alois Estermann, the newly-appointed commandant of the papal Swiss Guard, was found shot dead along with his wife and another Swiss Guard in the Vatican

Jacques Antoine Fierz who served in Small but élite corps with a proud record of selfless devotion to duty

nation for the tragedy had Vatican MAY 6 is the feast day of the Swiss Guard, the sole remaining military corps in the Vatican State. Had every-Above all, it begged a worrying thing gone to plan, present and forquestion: if the name of Cedric Ibr- mer guards, families and friends would be celebrating today.

Instead, they will be attending a funeral service in Saint Peter's Basilithat killer, armed and dangerous, is ca to mourn their newly appointed wife, Gladys Meza Romero. The ser-

shot them before committing suicide. His "fit of madness" - if the Vatican a corps with a remarkably unblemished record since its foundation in tragedy of 1527, when the crack regiment of Swiss mercenaries defend-

vice will also commemorate Cedric the corps, the only military body not Tornay, the corporal believed to have axed in 1970, when Pope Paul VI reformed the most militarised state in the world, numbers 100. Until this line proves correct - casts a pall over week they did well: for centuries, no murders had taken place within the area which is now the Vatican State. 1506. The May 6 feast marks the The Guard's success can be put down partly to the pacific nature of this tiny state, but also to the expertise of a ed Pope Clement VII against the corps which is a highly trained unit wandering the corridors of the Vat- commander, Alois Estermann, and his invading forces of Charles V; 147 nf well-versed in crowd control and in the Guard were mown down. Today single combat, including martial arts.

The commoner who displayed an uncommon degree of valour

ALOIS ESTERMANN led the Swiss Guard for six months before being formally appointed as its captain commander on Monday morning, writes Anne Hanley. Seven hours later he was dead, gunned down along with his wife in their apartment inside the Vatican.

Estermann was a man seem ingly without enemies, and his violent death stunned his men. "Anyone present last night as the news hroke will have seen spokesman Joaquin Navarro Valls yesterday. "Tears flowed, and it was understandable. He was very popular."

Born 44 years ago in Gunawill, Estermann was an official in the Swiss army before applying for a transfer to the Vatican. He entered the Hnly See's nnly military force in 1980 as captain, was promoted to major in 1983, lieutenant colonel in 1989, and quartermaster in 1989. In the same year he was made second-in-command of the 100-strong force.

An able linguist, and a student of theology. Estermann married Venezuelan lawyer Gladys Meza Romero in 1983. She died with him on Monday. The couple had no children. We know that if the Lord wills it, children will come along," he told the La Repubblica daily

hours before his death. Famous as the man who threw himself in front of the wounded Pope on 13 May, 1981 to protect him from further injury as a Turkish terrorist shot at him in Saint Peter's square, He subsequently led the papal bodyguard on over 30 pastoral trips abroad. His dedication to the Pontiff and the Guard also endeared him to the soldiers which make np the Pope's body guard. Ursula Bensiger, a friend of 15 years' standing, said: Over the last six months, beIN THE **NEWS**

ALOIS ESTERMANN

fore his appointment on Monday, all the guards I know said the same thing. 'We're so well off with Estermann in charge." the reaction," said Vatican They all, to a man, wanted Estermann to stay."

Yet in the Vatican, nr back home in Switzerland, there were those who were not wholly convinced by Estermann's qualities, as the delay in his appointment as commander of a force which he had been running since his predecessor retired in November last year

"The selection process is a long and complicated one, hampered by historical factors." said Navarro Valls in an effort to explain away the hold-up. "And sometimes when you're looking for the right person, you don't even notice that the perfect candidate is right under your nose."

Navarro Valis neglected to explain why Estermann's nommation took so much longer than that of his predecessors. Nor would he comment on the killed officer's plan to overhaul the Guard. And as for suggestions that Estermann's biggest drawback was his lack of blue hlood, that topic was brushed aside in yesterday's press conference.

"This was a favourite topic for speculation amongst the Swiss community in Rome." said Bensiger. "Estermann's predecessor Roland Buchs was not poble either. Two commoners in succession was pushing it for the Guard."

Grade's last C4 programmes too safe, says TV watchdog

By Paul McCann Media Editor

MICHAEL Grade's final year of programmes at Channel 4 have been damned as too safe by the commercial television regulator in its annual report.

The Independent Television Commission also raised concerns about the spread of confessinnal chat shows like management came nn board at Vanessa and, for the second year running, condemned ITV's lack Michael Jackson [Mr Grade's of variety.

Channel 4 "lost its drive" for innovation in 1997 and aired too few "landmark" programmes according to the ITC's annual performance review which was published yesterday. Sarah channel has put on programmes like its "Gimme Shelter" and "Banned" seasons, but last year had nn "high peaks" of minority interest programming.

Friends and not enough on its more fringe shows. It is also unhappy that 84 per cent of the foreign language films shown by the channel last year started after midnight.

This is largely a review of the old management and the old money Channel 4 used to receive," said Sir Rohin Biggam, chairman of the ITC. "The new absolutely the right time... successor] had very little influence on last year."

Since Mr Grade's departure in May 1997, the Government has stopped the controversial funding formula whereby Channel 4 paid a percentage of its ad-Thane, director of programming vertising revenue to ITV. In at the ITC, said in the past the return for keeping this money, and increased audiences, the channel's broadcasting licence has been re-written to make it produce more original programmes and use fewer American imports.

Yesterday, Jncelyn Hay. The ITC is known to believe that Channel 4 spent too much chairman of the Voice of the of its energy promoting and buy- Listener and Viewer lonby dressing the ITC recommening programmes like ER and group, echoed the ITC's view: dations.



Grade: Steered Channel 4 into financially safe waters'

"Michael Grade was a very good judge of popular taste and he certainly steered the channel into financially safe waters which means the channel was perhaps riskier in catering for really minority audiences when it first started."

Mr Jackson, Channel 4's chief executive, said yesterday that the channel was already ad-

The ITC report also criticised all broadcasters for daytime schedules that are over-reliant on confessional chat shows like Vanessa or Oprah. "They are an import and do raise concerns about the vulnerability of the people taking part and the general coarsening nf society," said Sir Rohin Biggam.

ITV was again criticised by the commission for having too much drama at the expense of entertainment and comedy in its peak-time schedule.

Network Centre drama output in 1997 increased once more to a level which is now nearly 26 per cent greater than that of 1993," says the report.

"Most of this is extremely popular and of high quality but it does crowd nut other types of programmes. The network should achieve greater diversity."

Instead, the ITC wants the better comedy and entertainment from ITV and says its Saturday night line-up has become "excessively one-note".



Tickets go begging for Diana visit

By Jan Burrell Home Affairs Correspondent

RED ON IT.

THOUSANDS of tickets to visit Althorp Park and the burial site of Diana, Princess of frenzied interest nearly four went on sale. The agency responsible for selling tickets for the opening of Althorp Park, the Spencer family home, told the

main unsold because of a wide prised to find out that tickets are spread public belief that they still available." were all sold in the first week swamped created within transformed into "Britain's an-will be elevated on a plinth.

four days 140,000 of the 152,000 swer to Graceland". The earl ing the past four months demand has dried up. The Spencer family oppos-

es any form of advertising of the Wales, remain unsold despite Althorp opening, which will allow 2,500 people a day to visit months ago, when they first the grounds and family home during a two-month period from July 1. Rob Wilmshurst, group manager of the Nottingham-based ticket agency Way Independent last night that near- Ahead, which has sole rights to ly 8,000 tickets are still available. sell the tickets, said: "Without It is thought the tickets re- a doubt, people would be sur-

This weekend it was again of January, when they first went stated that all the 152,000 tickon sale. Millions of people ets had been sold amid reports from all over the world that Earl Spencer was anxious from all over the money that the ancestral home was not a simple and classical design, is not a money-making exercise."

swamped credit-card phone that the ancestral home was not a simple and classical design, is not a money-making exercise."

transformed into "Britain's an-will be elevated on a plinth."

tickets had been sold. But dur- said: "This is not a moneymaking venture, however good the cause might seem; it is spects, whilst preserving the dignity of Althorp.

Britain's answer to Graceland, and, whilst I live, it will never do so." Earl Spencer has repeatedly stated that he does not want Althorp to be turned into a tourist trap. The public opening will be for only two months each year and coach parties are not being accepted.

The earl has decided that an 18ft-high memorial will be built

At the lake edge, which is as close as tourists will get to the burial site, there is a simple temple that will have two marble meeting an obligation to those memorials. One will bear a who wish to pay their final re- portrait of the Princess, designed by a local artist, and a three-line inscription taken "It must never become from one of her speeches. The other will carry an extract from the earl's funeral service address at Westminster Abbey.

The announcement of charges of £9.50 for adults, £7 for pensioners and £5 for children caused controversy, as it was argued commercial gain was being made from Diana's death. But Mr Wilmshurst said: "Even if all the tickets were sold that would on the island where Diana is only generate £1.4m, which buried. A 4ft-high urn, made in would not cover the staffing. This

Judges reject British move to ease beef ban

A GOVERNMENT attempt to March, 1996, in response to growhave the worldwide ban on British beef exports declared illegal was rejected yesterday by the European Court in Luxembourg.

The judges said the European Commission did not exceed its powers when it banned exports of British beef, not just to the rest of the European Union but throughout the world. The ban was imposed in

ing fears over the spread of BSE.

The Government lodged an immediate complaint that Eurocrats and other EU governments were acting politically and economically, to fend off a public backlash which could hit beef sales in the other member states. It also argued that the commission had no right to interfere in Britain's trade with countries be-

yond the EU. The case was adopted by the Labour government after its victory in last year's election.

Yesterday, however, the judges backed the commission's claim that it was only taking steps sufficient to contain the spread of mad cow disease by preventing British beef which might be exported to non-EU

countries re-entering the EU. The ban was triggered by fresh

information provided on 20 March 1996 by an independent scientific body set up to advise the British government, the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (Seac). The committee confirmed that "the most likely explanation" for the appearance of a new variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease - an incurable encephalopathy affecting humans - was exposure to BSE.

The judges said: "The new information significantly altered the perception of the risk which BSE represented for human health, and thus anthorised the commission to adopt safeguard measures."

They added that the commission was empowered to immobilise and contain animals and animal products within a specified territory as "an appropriate measure" in the event of disease threatening a serious hazard to animals or humans. "In order for such containment to be effective, it is necessary to impose a total ban on the movement of animals and products outside the frontiers of the member state concerned, thereby affecting exports to third countries, furthermore those directives do not expressly preclude the commission from banning

exports to third countries."

The court ruled that bearing in mind the probable link between BSE and CJD, and uncertainty about the effectiveness of anti-BSE measures. the commission did not exceed the

bounds of its discretion. The National Farmers Union which backed the Government's case said it was disappointed by the ming but pledged to maintain vigorous efforts to get the ban lifted soon.

Call to scrap teacher pay-review body

Education Correspondent

THE teachers' pay-review body should be scrapped to end a string of under-funded pay offers which had forced schools to push up class sizes, local-government employers said yesterday. They said rises over the past 11 years had put teachers and heads at the top of the town-hall pay league. Increases in pay had totalled 102 per cent for teachers and 114 per cent for heads since 1986, even

outstripping the police. In the meantime, repeated shortfalls in education budgets had forced councils to increase class sizes, pushing up teachers' workloads and driving down education chairman of the Local Government Association

He condemned the Teachers Pay Review Body for ignoring the financial position of councils when recommending pay rises for teachers, and called for direct national negotiations on classroom pay and conditions to improve classroom morale.

Mr Lane said: "Teachers have had a few extra quid a week for teaching in some instances quite considerable extra numbers in the classroom."

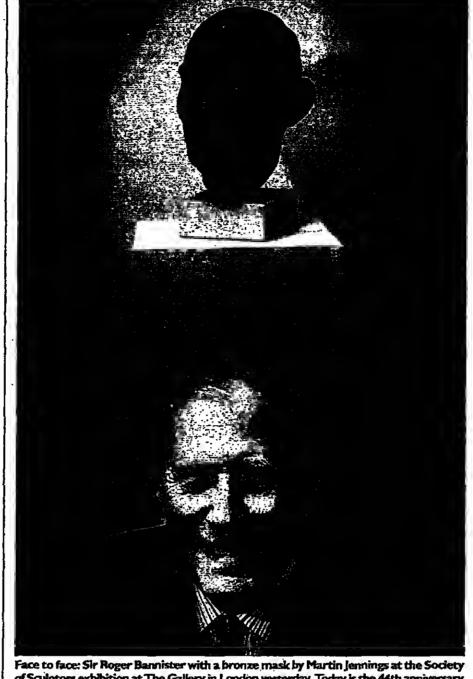
Proposals from the LGA and the Local Government Management Board, which represents council employers, were

morale, said Graham Lane, sent to ministers yesterday. At present the seven-member payreview body is enshrined in law. Local-government leaders

want to replace it with direct annual talks with teacher unions. Alternatively, council leaders suggest, the Government could set up a new wages council bringing together employers and unions, or move to bring teachers and employers into the existing review body.

Most teaching unions back the review body, although the largest, the National Union of Teachers, said it had been disappointed with its perfor-

Mr Lane attacked the current review body for being out



of Sculptors exhibition at The Gallery in London yesterday. Today is the 44th anniversary of Sir Roger's record-breaking sub-4-minute-mile Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

IND11

Prisoner found hanged in cell

A MEMBER of a gang which murdered a South Wales jeweller has been found hanged in his cell at the privately-run Parc prison near Bridgend. The death is the second to occur at the prison which opened last November and is operated by Securicor.

Dallas Lee, aged 27, from Beddau, near Pontypridd, acted as getaway driver in a bungled robbery when Jerry Hales was fatally stabbed at his shop in Cowbridge. An appeal against his conviction had been pending.

Fashanu post-mortem

JUSTIN FASHANU, the footballer whose body was found in a garage at the weekend, hanged himself, Scotland Yard said yesterday. A police spokesman said that a post-mortem examination showed "death by suspension" and confirmed that there were no suspicious circumstances. Fashanu, 37, once rated as one of Britain's brightest young football stars, was found hanged at a set of garages in Shoreditch, east London. He fled to Britain after being charged with sexually assaulting a 17-year-old boy in the United States.

Boxer taken off ventilator

THE boxer Spencer Oliver, who suffered life-threatening injuries in a bout on Saturday night, has been taken off a ventilator and is starting to talk to medical staff and his family. He is expected to leave the intensive care unit of the National Hospital for Neutology and Neurosurgery in London by today. The 22-year-old. super-bantamweight underwent a three-hour operation to remove a blood clot from his brain after being knocked down in a bout at the Royal Albert Hall. A spokesman for University College London Hospitals said "the risk to his life from this injury is now greatly reduced".

Playgroups to get more funds

A SMALL increase in funding for playgroups will be announced today by David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education, today. His announcement comes as playgroup campaigners record the closure of 424 playgroups or pre-schools during the past six months. They blame the closures on the increasing number of reception classes which now take four-year-olds.

Maiden voyage cancelled

THE maiden voyage from Southampton of the world's largest cruise ship, the 109,000-tonne Grand Princess, has been cancelled because work still needs to be done on the vessel.

Big poppy crop swells heroin tide

By Ian Burrell Home Affairs Correspondent

THE Government warned yesterday that the threat of a heroia epidemic in Britain has been greatly increased by a "bumper poppy crop" being harvested in Afghanistan.

George Foulkes, the Under-Secretary for International Development, said that both sides fighting in the Afghan civil war were being financed by the profits of drug production.

Afghanistan is the source of 95 per cent of the heroin which comes to Britain and Customs

officers have been alarmed at the scale of importation. A total of 1.747kg of heroin was seized in 1997, a tonne more than the previous year. Police estimate the haul has a street value of more than £145m and is the equivalent of nine million wraps". Mr Fnulkes said: "Doing something about Afghanistan is probably more important to Britain than any nther overseas issue."

The minister's warning came on the day that Britain's first American-style drug court was launched, allowing some heroin-using criminals arrest-

ed in parts of West Yorkshire to be dealt with at a special court and sentenced to treatment. They will be forced to give urine samples twice a week tn prove they are staying off drugs and if they repeatedly fail they could face prison. The drug court will sit week-

ly at Wakefield magistrates court from June. Addicts arrested from this week will be bailed to attend the court. More than 20 magistrates are undergoing training in dealing with drug-related crime thought to make up 70 per cent of crime committed in the area.

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Women's millennium view

London is hosting the "Female Millennium" global conference this week and many of the distinguished women delegates have contributed items to go into a time capsule. Some of these are predictable, like Hillary Clinton's humble donation of four of her own speeches on women's issues. Rabbi Julia Neuberger is more down-to-earth; she's offering a habygrow. But Pandora believes none of the VIP women will be able to match in earthiness our former head of the Secret Service, Stella Rimington, who wants to deposit a dis-

It just doesn't add up

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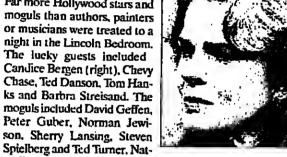
a cancelled

The Associated Press newswire carried an interesting item on Saturday about British fireman, David Thomas, who has set a new world record: he can remember 22,500 digits of the infinite number pi. Unfortunately, the AP wrongly printed the first five digits of pi as "3.164" and later had to issue a correction for the figure: "3.1416". The AP's mistake is perfectly understandable to someone with Pandora's own pathetic mathematical prowess.

A night at the White House

Recently President Clinton released the names of all those guests who had been given the honour of spending a night la the White House between 1993 and 1996. Pandora found the

"arts and letters" section of the list made depressing reading. Far more Hollywood stars and moguls than authors, painters or musicians were treated to a night in the Lincoln Bedroom. The lucky guests included Candice Bergen (right), Chevy Chase, Ted Danson, Tom Hanks and Barbra Streisand. The moguls included David Geffen, Peter Guber, Norman Jewison, Sherry Lansing, Steven



urally, some of the guests were also heavy contributors to Clinton's Democratic Party including Spielberg (\$225,000), Geffen (\$234,300) and Streisand who gave a mere \$86,400.

Wrong connections

Undonhtedly the most entertaining section of the Guardian appears on its obituaries page every day under the headline "Corrections and Clarifications." Pandora, of course, saintes this shining example of journalistic integrity, particularly the tongue-in-cheek style in which these embarrassing or trivial "corrections" are written. Last Wednesday, for example, the paper confessed to interested in obtaining more information about husiness and management awards. "The number we gave connected callers was the Interactive Speakeasy Chat and Date Service and provided an alternative number for gay callers." How very droll.

Police sting ends the tale of the cat burglar and a stolen Picasso



Come Correspondent

A FORMER professional cat burglar, whose victims were said to have included Sophia Loren and Elizabeth Taylor, came out of retirement to steal a valuable Picasso nnly to be arrested after a police sting, a court heard yesterday.

Police believe 67-year-old Richard Scott is the man responsible for a shotgun raid on a gallery in Mayfair, central London, Inst March, in which the rohber escaped in a taxi.

Mr Scott, who according to his autobiography, Gentleman Thief, had a colourful past as a famous cat burglar, wanted around £75,000 for the work Tête de Fernne (Woman's Head), a jury at Snaresbrook Crown Court in south London was told,

But his plan to sell on the painting was foiled after the man he passed it on to tried to negotiate a £650,000 deal with a team of undercover police officers posing as art dealers, the court heard,

Andrew Campbell, for the prosecution, said the painong had been snatched from the Lefevre Gallery last year after a man had walked in carrying a holdall.

Mr Campbell said the man asked how much a Picasso on display was worth and was told £650,000.

"He then said to the people working in the art gallery, 'I've got a shotgun and want that painting'."

He took the painting off the wall and walked to a taxi which he had left waiting outside the gallery and ordered the driver at gunpoint to go to an address in Wimhledon, south-west

Within hours of the robbery Mr Scott had met an accomplice, Ronald Spring, 70, to give him the painting which had been cut from its frame and placed in a small red suitcase, the jury

Spring told the court that Mr Scott

had demanded payment of £70,000 to £75,000 within seven days for the abstract portrait,

Mr Campbell said that Mr Scott later claimed he was simply acting as "an innocent go-between".

The police "sting" came after Spring had contacted an undercover officer, known only as Patrick, on the morning of the Picasso raid to offer him the picture.

The court heard that Spring had earlier claimed his accomplice was sizing up a £5m painting to be stolen at a later date.

The court also heard that Spring, of Southgate, north London, had offered the team of detectives posing as art dealers a whole series of deals in the months feading up to the Picasso

Seven days after the robbery police arrested Spring at his offices in central London, as he attempted to hand over the Tête de Femme after it had been authenticated by an officer posing as an art valuer.

The solicitor, who has already pleaded guilty to a charge of conspiracy to handle stolen goods, agreed with police to take part in a counter operation against his alleged accomplice, the court heard.

The two men agreed to meet at the Sherlock Holmes Hotel on Baker Street where Spring was to hand over Mr Scott's share of the proceeds from the Picasso sale.

Mr Scott was handed a bag of cash in full view of police officers after he told him he had to settle for less than expected, it was claimed.

Mr Campbell told the court that Mr Scott smiled as he was shown the cash, fore he was arrested by unde er detectives.

Earlier Mr Campbell had told the jury: "Mr Scott is a man who has made his living as a cat burglar. He is actually quite famous, he has written a

Mr Campbell added: "The victims



Gentleman thief: Richard Scott leaving Southwark Crown Court yesterday (top left), where it was claimed that he stole Picasso's Tête de Femme from the Lefevre Gallery (below) Photographs: Tim Whitby, Jeff Moore

of his burglaries include Sophia Loren and Elizabeth Taylor. But according to him he has given all that up."

Mr Scott, a property developer of conspiracy to handle stolen goods.

The court heard that the two men, who first met in 1977, had initially discussed art thefts in April 1995 during a series of meetings following the publication of Mr Scott's autobiography. The case continues.



DAILY POEM Section from 'A Kitchen Poem'

By Les Arnold

He sang as he cooked. Arias in pig-Italian, the debris doggerel of late-night cafés, hymns. He loved to set his food to music. His fishcourse to Debussy, his strong meat to Beethoven, his puddings to Poulenc. When it was over, when the goose was cooked, the souffle rose in triumph over Paris roofs like the truffle pig at sunrise in his master's forests, he loved the silence of departed diners. He cleansed tables, scoured the kitchen, absolved the gathering darkness. Going home through silent streets, mind emptied of night and day, his eyes unstrung ...

The "Kitchen Poem" sequence appears in Shaker City, the final volume by the poet and teacher Les Arnold, who died in 1992. Shaker City is published, price £7.95, by Stride Publications at 11 Sylvan Road, Exeter EX4 6EW.

Beatles come together for 'bootlegging' battle

FORMER members of the Bea- last trip to the German club ties and Yoko Ono began a le- fulfilling their contract after gal action yesterday to try to they had already signed with recover an amateur recording EMI Records and were enjoyof them playing in Hamburg 36

George Harrison, Ringo Starr, Sir Paul McCartney and Lennon's will, are asking a High Court judge to ban sales of a CD produced from the recording made at The Star Club in 1962. They also want the original tape, or proof that it has been destroyed.

It was made by Edward Taylor, leader of obscure Sixties band King Size Taylor and the a double bill with the Beatles. The Beatles were making their

ing their first hit, "Love Me Do", which reached No 17 in the charts that December.

Mark Platts Mills QC, rep-Yoko, who is executrix of John resenting the Beatles, told Mr Justice Neuberger that there had been "various attempts to exploit" the tape by people associated with the defendants, Lingasong Music, of Waltham Abbey, Essex. Lingasong claims that Lennou, who was shot dead in 1980, gave his verbal consent to the recording.

Mr 'Platts Mills sald the Dominoes, when he was playing only people allowed to make recordings of the Beatles at that time was EMI under the terms



Ringo Starr: Legal reunion with McCartney and Harrison

of a contract signed by their manager, the late Brian Epstein.

An album of the Beatles' songs from the recording was released in 1977 on the Polydor label. Injunctions to stop it were refused by the High Court. Yesterday's action is being made under the new 1989 Copyright Act which gives more protection to artists and writers.

Staff used washing-up liquid to clean factory, E.coli inquiry told

By Charles Arthur Science and Technology Editor:

THE manager of a butcher's premises thought that the "hio" prefix of "biodegradable washing-up liquid" meant it would kill bacteria, an inquiry into the world's worst outbreak of E.coli O157 food poisoning heard yes-

Robert Hepburn, 41, who was the manager of the butcher's factory within the John M Barr premises in Wishaw, Lanarkshire, also said that staff at John Barr's butcher's premises did not use temperature probes when cooking joints of meat, and bad no written instructions or formal training. But he said he could not ex-

tigating the outbreak's sources found traces of the E.coli O157 bacteria on a vacuum-packing machine and on the rim of a The Lanarkshire outbreak

plain how health experts inves-

began in November 1996 and eventually killed 21 elderly people. The Barr premises have been implicated as a major source of food potentially contaminated with E.coli O157. Under cross-examinadon at

the fatal accident inquiry, now in its third week, Mr Hepburn denied that cleaning procedures were skimped by staff working "flat-out" in a busy environment. To clean the factory part of the premises, staff used biodegradable washing-up liquid.

"You thought the word 'hio' meant kill bacteria?," he was asked by Dennis Crawley, counsel for Wishaw Old Parish Church, which organised a church lunch where several elderly pensioners contracted the bug, and also the Bankview nursing home, five of whose residents died in the outhreak. "Yes." replied Mr Hepburn.

He said that batch cooking of meat such as pork, roast beef and gammon, took place in a large boiler four times a week. The meats came from suppliers located at Wishaw abattoir and in Glasgow, and after cooking they were vacuum-packed. But be said that staff received no formal training.

The inquiry continues.

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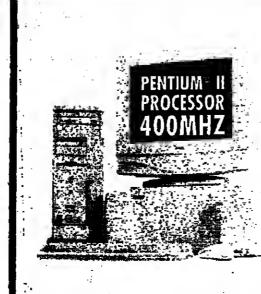
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Cook adds voice to 'fair' votes system

ROBIN COOK is ready to signal his support for a compromise over electoral reforms which could give Tony Blair's government the prospect of two decades in power.

The Foreign Secretary has been the leading voice inside the Cabinet in support of proportional representation. But he is ready to endorse an alternative vote system plus a top up of MPs elected by PR.

He was criticised recently for expressing the hope that Labour could stay in power for 20 years. Some Labour aides were also reported to have celebrated Labour's first year in power by calling for 20 more years in office.

But Mr Cook's swing in favour of the compromise system, known as AV-plus, could help to keep the Tories out of power for the next decade, by capitalising on the majority of voters who either vote Labour or Liberal Democrat.

Labour campaigners for a fairer voting system for the Commons helieve Mr Cook's acceptance of AV-plus, to be signalled in a book published next month; could help to persuade Tony Blair to back the idea before the next general election. He has promised a referendum in this Parliament following the recommendations of the Jenkins Commission, which is due to report in October.

"Robin is the key," said one Labour campaigner last night. "Mo Mowlam and Clare Short are in favour. Jack Cunningham is less committed.

"If the Jenkins commission

anyone in the Cabinet will oppose it. No one is going to resign from the Cahinet if they come up with AV-plus."

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, who would have to introduce the legislation, is the strongest opponent of PR hot has come out in favour of AV. Accepting a top-up by proportional representation would be a compromise which his friends believe he would be prepared to make, if it was accepted by Mr Blair.

The campaigners believe that the other known Cahinet opponent of PR, John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, is also prepared to compromise.

Senior Liberal Democrats who have been campaigning for a purer form of PR for the Commons are also prepared to accept the compromise, The Independent learned yesterday, and they said it should be done before the next election.

"Blair can oil the wheels to make the change with a hig majority - he has patronage and he can accommodate people in the Lords, in the Scottish and Welsh Parliaments, in London, and the regions," said one senior member of Paddy Ashdown's team.

Under the alternative vote system, voters would be able to indicate their preference, if their first choice failed to get 50 per cent to be elected. But there would also be a top-up of MPs from the party lists, elected in proportion to the parties' total votes in the polls.

The advantage with the sys-tem over other forms of PR is that it would retain the MPs' links with their constituencies. hut the snag is that to achieve comes up with something that a top up and keep the Com-Blair can accept, I don't think mons roughly the same size. Is that we had in 1994 an ex-



Joining forces: MP's (left to right) Jenny Tonge (Lib Dem), John Hayes (Con) and Oona King (Lab) launch the debt lapel chain, the symbol of Christian Aid's campaign to wipe out Third World debt. The chains cost £1 each

"That way people could end

up getting a Conservative or

Liberal Democrat council by

the back door. To get the best

deal for local people, it's im-

portant that local councils and

central government work

That appeal - identical to

appeals made by the Tories

when they were in office - un-

derlined the fears of the party

machine that they could be fac-

together.

Blair paves way for Labour losses

By Anthony Bevins Political Editor

THE Prime Minister yesterday

prepared the ground for Labour losses in tomorrow's local elections with party fears that complacency would keep the voters at home. Tony Blair told a press con-

ference in London that unless the Tories managed to take control of a number of new local authorities, then they were in severe difficulty.

But he then added: "Of course we don't want serious losses at all. What I'm saying traordinarily good set of results.

"It would defy all the rules of politics if we managed to achieve as good a result or anything near as good a result as that, although the feedback on the ground is actually good, but there is the issue of turnout."

In a considered appeal to cople who had previously voted Labour, the Prime Minister said: "I know that many Labour voters believe they did their job last year by voting for the Labour government. It would be a real mistake to stay at home on Thursday and not

ing embarrassing losses and the appearance of a loss of But Mr Blair added that the Tories had already claimed they

were on track for a political

comeback in the elections, and he said: "They claim to have reformed their party, they claim to have learned the lessons of defeat

"If they don't make very big gains this Thursday it will be a crushing blow to them."

Paul Burstow, the Liberal Democrat local government spokesman, said yesterday that the Conservatives needed to make 500 gains nationwide, and the Liheral Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown, said his party offered relief from oneparty rule - under whichever

Asked about Lahour's

spending review, Mr Blair said that it would generate extra investment for priority areas like schools and hospitals, but he warned that extra cash would be tied to reform.

"We want better schools better hospitals," he said.

But he added: "That comes not just through more money hut by making sure also that we have the right structures in place and the right programme in place for reform and change."

More than 4,000 seats are being contested in the elections, including all those on the 32 London horoughs.

If the boundaries are disputed, the company will have the right of appeal to an independent body - a revamped Central Arbitration Committee, which will make the final

It is expected that the White Paper will suggest that organisations with fewer than 30 work-The CBI originally called for a limit of 50 employees, while the TUC preferred a system in

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Lib Dems cash in on sleaze and poor services

By David Walker and Linus Gregoriades

"WE are taking our message entirely from Peter Mandelson," according to Stephen Hitchins, Liberal Democrat eader in the north London borough of Islington, "the people deserve better, it's time for a change."

Solid Labour Islington, former home of Tony Blair himself. is under assault, accused of levying excessive council tax, borrowing profligately (Islington's £800m deht is hlamed by the Liberal Democrats on the former council leader, now Blairite loyalist MP Margaret Hodge) and badly managing its education and social services.

"There is such a disparity," Mr Hitchins says. "In booming, trendy Islington the quality of services in almost every department is below par." It is a charge being made by the Liberal Democrats across urban England as they position themselves as the principal opponent of Labour hegemony in the big cities. Interestingly, there are some signs that such criticisms are not entirely unwelcome either at Labour headquarters or

in Tony Blair's inner counsels. In Doncaster and Hull, Labour's reputation has been damaged by allegations of sleaze - though whether voters tomorrow will move beyond complaining to vote for the Liberal Democrats is by no means certain. In Liverpool and Hackney in north-east London the charge against Labour is disorganisatico – though in Hackney the Liberal Democrats' current 17-strong complement of councillors includes a number of Labour renegades and in Liverpool the strength of the Liberal Democrats owes something to their old association

with Protestantism. There will be a "Donnygate" factor of some kind. Iau Homer, the Liberal Democrat regional co-ordinator for York-

the vote hut whether this will round party headquarters translate into seats we don't know. We got a massive swing lock on the process of selecting in Stainforth Jwhere Labour lost a seat in a by-election in February] but replicating that will he difficult. We will be looking to pick up one or two scats and

anything more is a bonus." Hull where a fortnight ago Labour - tainted by allegain a by-election in Boothferry. The victor, Andrea Walker, sees her party picking up a few more - which will do little to dent Labour's control of the council, hut would give her party a "louder voice".

What she registers is public discontent with the performance of the council - which is boosted by a feeling that Tony Blair's administration has let people down.

"Hull is coming bottom on league tables all the time which is the responsibility both of the city and of the county council from which it inherited schools and social services, which was also Labour controlled. People are turning to us as an alternative." Lib Dem organisation, how-

ever, is weak in Labour's Yorkshire strongholds. But across the Pennines they may see gains in cities such as Oldham.

London may give the party its most spectacular gains. According to Stephen Hitchins in Islington, the fact that Londoners will also be voting in the referendum on the future shape of the capital's government will not add much to turn out. The party's hest hopes, after Islington and Hackney, are the southern boroughs of Lambeth (where they are numerically the largest party). Southwark and

Yet there are signs that Labour losses, in moderation, would not be unwelcome at party headquarters. "These will be the last elections under the old dispensation," one of Mr shire, says: "We are confident Blair's inner circle said yesterof having an increase share in day - meaning that next time

would have an unhreakable candidates while Labour's plans for "best value" in council services would put the squeeze on less efficient and high spending authorities.

While Deputy Prime Minis-The picture is similar in ter (and Hull MP) John Prescott is opposed to proportional representation in local government tions of corruption - lost a seat elections, some of Mr Blair's aides are seeking alternatives to the existing set-up, if only to prevent the kind of one-party dominance it has enjoyed in places such as Doncaster.

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The Confederation of British Industry originally argued for a 50 per cent threshold, hut has subsequently accepted the 40 per cent figure. In the teeth of opposition from some union leaders, John Monks, general secretary of

the TUC, offered a compromise of 30 per cent. Some leading trade unionists will reluctantly accept the Prime Minister's formula - given other employee-friendly elements

Cabinet

for clash

on union

TONY BLAIR has decided to risk a public clash with some of the Labour Party's biggest financial backers by siding with

employers in a key element of

The Prime Minister is ex-

pected to tell the Cabinet to-

morrow that he is determined

to enforce stringent tests before

a union can win recognition at

In particular, he will reveal

that the White Paper on "fair-

ness at work", due to be pub-

lished within weeks, will insist

that employees' representatives -

have to win 40 per cent back-

ing of the relevant workforce in

a ballot, not just a simple ma-

jority of those voting.

the workplace.

legislation on union rights.

heads

rights

By Barrie Clement

of the White Paper - while others will be less gracious. Bill Morris, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, yesterday suggested that there be a referen-

dum on the White Paper among all 7 million union members. While Mr Blair is auxious to agree with the CBI on an issue which has received the most public attention, he is expected. to offer unions something in return. The Prime Minister will feel the need to placate more union-minded government colleagues and maintain the flow of funds from unions into

Labour Party coffers. More to trade unionists' liking is likely to be a decision on who will draw up the constituencies for ballots. The CBL wanted employers to define the boundaries of the "bargaining unit" with a right of appeal for unions. But Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, has told employees' leaders that the initiative will initially lie with unions.

ers be excluded from the law. which recognition would be granted in firms of fewer than 10 workers dependent on majority union membership.

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Section 16

Tin Pan Alley set for a musical renaissance

By Clare Garner and Caron Lipman

THE area around London's Tin Pan Alley - Denmark Street, in Soho -could be revitalised if proposals for a major national music centre are approved.

The planned multi-faceted music venue, which would include a large performance space, a hotel. a television station, a radio station, a satellite link, restaurants, hars and music-themed retail outlets, would be situated near Tottenham Court Road Underground station close by Denmark Street, the traditional home of the music business in the capital.

The project, dubbed Music Inc. is the brainchild of Laurence Kirschel, who has previously owned a number of music venues including Ronnie Scott's. The Rainbow, the old and new Marquees. He also developed Terence Conran's restaurant Mezzo on Dean Street. He will submit his plans for developing the heart of Loodon's music industry to Camden Council io the next couple

"The plan is to create a completely new institution, a cultural centre for all kinds of music, including everything - fulk, jazz, rock 'n' roll. reggae," said a source close to the project, "Britain makes so much good music but there is no one to develop it ... It's oot just a themed restaurant. It's very big and very, very expensive ... It's not one of these Planet Hollywood, we've got a few famous oames' places. We're talking about institutional names."

The source added that current music venues are badly designed, with poor facilities. Music Inc would aim to promote new bands rather than just "focusing on the golden oldies," he said. The plans include revamping Denmark Street, but the s likely to remain intact. The street is part of a conservation locations in central London.

area with some listed buildings dating back to the 17th century.

The list of the street's past inhabitants reads like a history of rock roll. The Rolling Stones recorded "Route 66" in the then Regent Sounds Studios (No 4); the Sex Pistols lived above a shop (No 6), as did the all-girl trio Bananarama; David Bowie, Ray Davies, Tom Jooes and Rod Stewart used to hung out at La Gioconda, a musicians' café (No 9). while George Harrison, Bob Dylan, Eric Clapton and Mark Knopfler all frequented Andy's Guitar Workshop at No 27.

It was at Mills Music Ltd (No 20) that young Reg Dwight started his working life in the post room for the princely sum of £4.50 a week, before he became Elton John. And on 27 October 1969, he wrote his first hit, "Your Song", with Bernie Taupin. Paul McCartney, Sting, Status Quo and the Moody Blues bought instruments at Rose Morris Music (No 11), one of Britain's leading musical instrument stores. Preserved in concrete on the pavement outside are the handprints of Level 42 aod Joan Armatrading.

Tommy Steele, Adam Faith, Cliff Richard and Petula Clark were frequent visitors at Peter Maurice Music Co, which has occupied No 21 since the 1930s. Next door, at No 22, is the UK's most famous guitar shop, Rhodes Music, patronised by the Who, Stevie Wonder and Bryan Adams. And so it goes on.

Mr Kirschel is director of Freeholder Consolidated Developments Ltd, which owns a large block of land taking in huildings hetween the northern end of Charing Cross Road, St Giles High Street and Denmark Street. He refused to comment on the plans "due to the scositivity with Camden Council". Successive companies have tried and failed to develop the area, which is one of the few remaining large prime-site



The beat goes on: Adam Garcia, in his first West End starring role as the disco heart-throb Tony Manero, strutting his stuff with Anita Louise Combe Photograph: Geraint Lewis and sexist" elements of the

Seventies fever is staying alive in the Nineties

By David Lister Arts News Editor

THE Seventies revival received its biggest test last

Reprising on (ashions and dance styles does have some sociological and historical relevance. Bringing back the Bee Gees' window-shattering falsettos

is a high-risk strategy. Bot the impresario Robert Stigwood, who discovered the group back in the Sixties, has kept the faith. Yesterday he opened his £4m stage musical of the 1977 hit film Saturday Night Fever in the West End, boasting nut only all the Bee Gees' originals soch as "Stayin' Alive" and "Night

production. Whether that brings in the crowds in 1998 remains

Fever", but also two new

especially for this

songs written by the group

in he seen. The Seventies film made a star out of John Travolta. who, ensurprisingly, was not prepared to relive his youth on the Palladium stage. Instead, Stigwood

decided to gamble on Adam Garcia in his first West End starring role as white-snited disco heart-throb Tooy Manero living for Saturday nights at the 2001 Odyssey disco, with another leading member of the cast, Simon Greiff, as Bohby C, straight ont of drama school.

No risks were being taken with the choreography, which was entrusted to Arlene Phillips, the founder of the Seveoties dance troupe Hot Gossip.

She also directed the production, and promised that she would bring out in the stage production the ofteo forgotteo "dark, racist

FIRST NIGHT: SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER: LONDON PALLADIUM

movie. She said in o recent interview that she was in no doubt of the current Seventies craze.

"I look at Time Out and every single week there's another Seventies club ur Seventies night."

Why is that? "The music's good, it's energising, and everything comes round. Every era comes back."

It is 22 years since the rock juurnalist Nik Cubu largely invented (hy his own admission) ao article for New York magazine about working-class guys going daocing la

Brooklyn. The rights for the piece were bought by Stigwood the day the magazine appeared, and he produced a movie about it whose soundtrack sold 31 millioo

The show's co-producer, David Ian, was one of those whose life or at least lifestyle was changed.

He says: "I was 16 or 17 when it was released ond it had an conrmus impact on

"All of a sudden, dancing was cool for guys, rather than hanging out with a pint of lager.

David 1ao, Stigwood and Paul Nicholas, the production team behind Saturday Night Fever, also produced Grease, now in its fifth year in the West End and also a Seventies movie hit with John Travoita.

They will be hoping the formula will strike gold agaio ... before the Eighties revival sets in.



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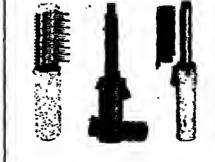
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Blair and Major set to bolster 'yes' campaign

Ireland Correspondent

THE DEBATE within the Unionist and Protestant community over the Good Friday agreement raged on yesterday with opposing factions characterising it as either the best way ahead or a constitutional calamity.

The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, is due in Belfast today, together with John Major, for a visit which the pro-agreement forces hope will galvanise a sofar lacklustre campaign leading up to the May 22nd referen-

The "yes" campaign has to date been a quiet affair, partly favour tend to support it not with great enthusiasm but because they feel it is the leastworst, or possibly the only op-



By contrast the "no" camterprise led by the Rev Ian Paisley, has been much more conspicuous and vociferous. But although it has generated more activity it has yet to create a sense of momentum or a bandagon effect within Unionism.

The Presbyterian church, the largest Protestant denomination in Northern Ireland, yesterday delivered a judgement on the agreement which stopped short of calling for a "yes" vote. Its detailed critique of the accord none the less applauded many parts of it, leaving the impresfavoured the accord. Its key sen- Trimble's MPs, said: "I intend tence read: "The agreement to stick with this until my pardoes not represent defeat or assimilation but is rather a political accommodation which could be a way out of the darkness of the last 30 years into a

On the Unionist political front the language deployed was less restrained. A loose confederation of anti-agreement elcments including Mr Paisley's party, Robert McCartney's UK Unionists and dissenting members of David Trimble's Ulster Unionists, formally launched their campaign with the slogan "It's right to say no."

Mr McCartney declared: "It is a positive campaign. A 'yes' vote means the end of our link with Britain." Of Mr Trimble he said: "This man is putty in the hands of experienced negotiators."

ty comes to its senses

A pointed rejoinder to the no" campaign came from the Progressive Unionist Party, some of whose leading members have served prison sentences for involvement in loyalist violence.

Billy Hutchinson, a party spokesman, said: "All of those people out there in the 'no' campaign bad better take responsibility. If they are going to frighten people with a united Ireland then they will be responsible for creating more deaths. Those people who say we are on a road to a united Ireland had better realise that they are making people very, very nervous and this is making people pull triggers."

Meanwhile, six republican risoners were transferred from British to Irish jails yesterday.



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No surrender to settlement in heartland of the hard-liners

THERE IS little welcome for the peace settlement at Portadown, the unyielding beartland of Ulster Protestantism. Inone of fatalism and anger. The Loyalist cause has been, they say, casually lossed away in the

interest of political expediency. The view in this town, where Profestants make up 73 per cent of the population, is that decades of bombing and shooting by the Provisional IRA has ended with Sinn Fein getting what they wanted over lea and hiscuits al Stormoni.

Portadown is the constituency of Ulster Unionist course campaigning for a yes vote. But it is also the home lown of Billy Wright, the murdered leader of the Loyalist Volunteer Force. Supporters of the paramilitary say that since the politicians have belrayed them, the only option left is relentless and violent direct action.

It is no empty threat. The Good Friday peace accord was followed by a series of sectarian attacks on Catholics, including the murders of a 29-year-old man at Portadown. and a 22-year-old student at Crumlin, Co Antrim. The security sources blamed the LVF.

Portadown will also be the location of one of the most potentially explosive confrontations of the coming months, the Orange Order Drumcree march through the Catholic Garvachy Road. Last Friday the recently in-

stituted Parades Commission issued restrictions on two Loyalist marches. At Portadown, Protestant activists declare such interference will not be tolcrated when it comes to Drumcree. Ivor Young's rapidly growing Concerned Protestants Committee will be co-ordinating

many of the planned marches

and rallies of the marching sea-

son. On his front room wall

hangs a sketch of Orangemen

parading to Drumcree Parish Mr Young said: "We do not accept this Parades Commission, they are just representing the British Government. They bave no right to tell us what to do. The people will be going to their church at Drumcree. It is not the Loyalists who cause trouble there, it is the Nationalists whipped up by Sinn

"David Trimbte has let us down badly. If he stands berc Drumeree 98." again I don't think he'll get back in, he is just one of the politicians who has sold us down the

"Of course there will be violence in the future. I don't think Tony Blair understands the situation; the Loyalists have been left with no option but to fight back. What he doesn't understand is that we could be sceing things which are 10 umes

worse than anything that ha gone on before."

In the town centre blasted last year by a 500lb IRA bomb, Richard Armstrong, 42, a company director, says he has no lime for Loyalist paramilistead, the mood among many is taries but is also against the agreement.

He said: "Unlike a lol of people, I have actually studied the document. It seems to mean all things to all men. I can't see how it can work when the avowed aim of Sinn Fein is a United Ireland. If the referendum was held lomorrow I would vote no."

There were, however, a few voices of hope. Susan Johnston, 53, is at pains to point out that



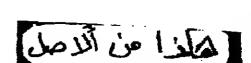
'David Trimble has let us down badly. If he stands here again, I don't think he'll get back in'

people are simply too weary and battered by the years of strife. "I was so bappy about the agreement at Easter that I actually got drunk for the first time in 10 years. My husband was

most shocked," she said. "This is our last chance, we have had 28 years of the troubles and it has go! us nowbere. We simply do not want any more killings in the future. It's got to stop.

Whether that happens or not may well be out of the bands of people like her. Less than 200 yards from where she stood speaking, rising above the red, white and blue kerb stones of the Protestant estates are the murals mourning the martyrdom of Billy Wright, and the slogans of Loyalism's defiant last stand. "LVF - the true defenders", "No Surrender", and "Marching Not Talking -





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Push to the summit promises to take the breath away



Everest Diary

Base Camp

HIS could be my last diary from Base Camp before our push for the 8,848m summit of Everest. The weather is still nnsettled, sun in the morning and snow showers in the afternoon, but we have had a favourable forecast and Dave Walsh, our guide, is keen to move up to a higher camp to be poised should a summit opportunity arise.

Lengthy, that is diary length, communication from higher camps is unlikely. The team has VHF radios for operational and emergency use hut the only diary pieces I have got down from higher up during our earlier acclimatisation climbs have been written on paper and carried down to Base Camp by a Sherpa for onward transmission by friends.

So this may be the occasion for me to talk of my hopes and fears before once again we enter the moving labyrinth of the Khumhu Icefall en route to Advanced Base Camp (Camp 2). Hopes are simple, 1 would like to get as high as possihle consistent with getting down safely. Unlike my team-mates on this commercial expedition, marketed by Himalayan Kingdoms Expeditions of Sheffield. I have not personally invested £25,000 to £30,000 in attempting to climb to the top of the world, and I have no flag to wave.

I feel some sympathy for Josie Kieran, the 44-year old ourse from Dundalk, who is carrying an Irish flag presented to her by the presideot. Mary McAleese.

Josie would be the first Irish woman to the summit. Though she would probably brush aside my concern that the "flag and the first" are potentially dangerous pressures - liable to push one beyood a point of safe return - history suggests it is real enough, Flags and nationalism have beeo a bane of mountaineering.



For Josie, more hillwalker than climber, it is going to be a testing few days. So I have fears for my teammates, all of whom have more mvested in the summit, financially and emotionally, than I do.

This morning, before breakfast, I lay in my sleeping bag and re-read Sir Edmund Hillary's account of reaching the summit with Sherpa Tenzing Norgay in 1953 - the first asceot. What comes through is the sheer physically wearying ordeal of it - even for a supremely fit man, as the big New Zealander certainly was

I am no Hillary and exhaustion is one of my fears. Going up the Lhotse Face to Camp 3 at 7,200m was sapping enough. This time we will have bottled oxygen from then

tles on my back and what if the Russian-made system malfunctions or freezes in the hitter cold?

So far I have coped pretty well with altitude and have had no bad headaches. We have done all the right things about acclimatising slowly - goodness, we have been in Nepal for nearly seven weeks. So maybe I am being irrational, but even on. But I will have to carry two bot- so the possibility of serious altitude

sickness striking suddenly, and my not being able to desceod quickly to relieve it, is perhaps my biggest fear.

Another nagging worry around

the camp, certainly among the clients, is bow closely engaged the Sherpas are in our enterprise. John Hunt is unstinting in his praise for the Sherpas' "magnificent" effort in 1953 and their co-operatioo in the essential teamwork of the whole party.

Well our nine Sherpas seem a friendly, cheerful coough hunch but I suspect the idea of teamwork and joint enterprise has faded since 1953. It is hardly surprising. Everest climbing is business. Just as we are a commercial expedition, Sher-

a price and often in a manner they themselves largely dictate. Perhaps I should dispel a myth

pas are contractors, doing a job for

Dear Diary: Stephen Goodwin at Base Camp yesterday preparing for the summit assault Photograph: Sundeep Dhillon using a Fuji DS-300 digital camera

that may linger in some minds. Everest expeditions do oot advance up the mountain with the lightly ladened sahibs followed Indian-file by bow-backed Sherpas, cooks and cook boys. On the mountain, we hardly ever see our Sherpas, except coming in the opposite direction. Both groups carry out their tasks independently.

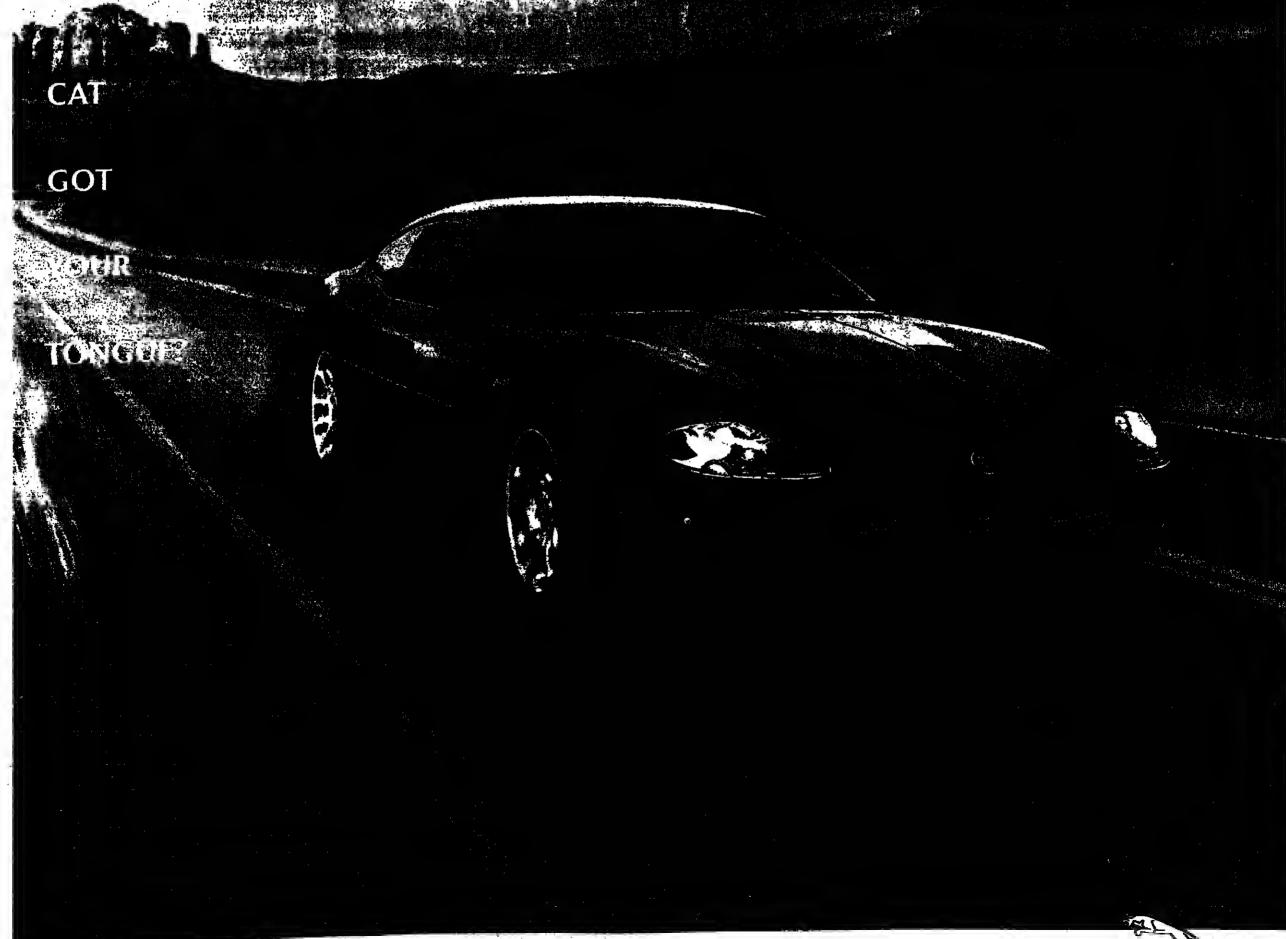
Sherpas these days are analogous to jobbing builders. You employ them, but they will have their own fixed ideas about how best to do the job and when they will turn up or knock off for tea.

Unfortunately our Sherpas seem to have decided oot all the team will get high on Everest and therefore, contrary to instructions, they did not need to put up another tent at Camp 3 where last month we crammed three people into each of two cosy two-man tents.

The job should have been done days ago while we were away down the valley in Dingboche. Dave Walsh will now have to insist oo another tent, bot the Sherpas' bolsby stubbornness does not augur well for the vitally occessary co-operation we will need at the South Col and

A signal difference, of course, between the 1953-type expedition and commercial ventures such as ours is over the selection of summitteers. Hunt, or Chris Bonington in his big 1970s climbs, could pick the strongest pair for the summit bid and the rest of the party would have to be cootent with some reflected glory as part of the team.

On a commercial trip, ooce the punter has paid his or ber £25,000. he or she must feel entitled to an equal shot at the summit, oo matter how illusory, or eveo dangerous, the guides - or Sberpas - may feel



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Arafat fights last-ditch battle for his health

By Patrick Cockburn

HOW sick is Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader? For several years his visitors have noticed under his legs wheo he is sitting down to conceal the fact that they are shaking. Diplomats have seen him taking pills prescribed by his doctors, but do not know details of his med-

At one moment, Israel set up an informal committee to advise on the state of Mr Arafat's health. It decided be did not have Parkinson's disease. though he does have many of the symptoms, such as shaking limbs and lips and fixed eyes.

His closest aides are protective. They say many of the signs of his deteriorating health

are the consequence of his plane crash in Libya on 7 April

Several months after the crash doctors in Jordan removed a blood clot in his brain. he sometimes tucks his haods an apparent result of the crash

> Mr Arafat is 69 and works famously hard, particularly at night. Few decisions io the Palestinian Authority, which runs Gaza and the Palestinian enclaves on the West Bank, are reached without him.

But since Benjamin Netanyahu was elected Israeli prime minister in 1996 the Palestinian leader has been depressed - his depression sometimes coming close to a nervous

He speaks less in English than he used to, and his aides seem to coach him more.

Mr Arafat's memory is fading. He is as deft as ever in maproblems have more to do noeuvring within Palestinian politics as was demonstrated

any length about the Oslo actant group Hamas. His political cord, but not to implement it. on Israel. He has steered away

with Mr Netanyabu's intransi- leader is sticking to his strateprepared to talk at almost ican, European and Arah the present status quo.

Nevertheless, the Palestinian from suggestions that the Palestinians need to prove on the gence. The Israeli leader is gy of trying to cultivate Amer- streets that they will not accept

Mazen, who negotiated so Arafat's popular appeal among much of the Oslo agreement, is the 6 million Palestinians in his most obvious successor. But the world and his reputation as whoever takes over will de- an old revolutionary, as well as pend on the Palestinian securi- a diplomat.

resterday after meeting

Since Netanyahu

was elected,

leader has

depression

the Palestinian

suffered serious

Tony Blair. Observers have commented on the Palestinian leader's sickly

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Albright shows her fear of Netanyahu

By Robert Fisk Middle East Correspondent

THERE was a moment yesterday morning that captured the hopelessness of the Middle East "peace process". On a sofu just outside the coffee saloo of the Churchill Hotel in London there slumped a familiar figure. There was no obvious security, just a tall, State Department spokesman and the woman sitting white-faced with exhaustion oo the settee.

she was on the point of collapse. It was prepared to evacuate to telephoned Yasser Arafat to Mr Arafat is oot going to get a plead her excuses. She could not come to see him as agreed, she said. She was simply too tired to drive over to Claridges for their meeting. Arafat burst into laughter wheo the call was over.

Never mind that his own state of health - shocking to behold when only a few feet from him -was far worse than Mrs Albright's. But when it came to Benjamin Netanyahu, a few hours later, Mrs Albright was off in her limousioe to meet the Israeli Prime Minister at his hotel.

And what came over most strongly yesterday was Mrs Alhright's fear of Mr Netanyahu, indeed perhaps her fear of Israel. Mr Arafat and the Palestine Liberatioo Organisation Palestirian state on this little had already accepted America's conditions for the 11 May invitation to meet President Bill Clinton in Washington. Mr Ne-Mrs Albright talked to us later - hesitant and sometimes confusing or forgetting questionsshe was all praise for the Israeli Prime Minister who is forging ahead with Jewish settlemeots oo the land Mr Arafat wants as part of his Palestinian state.

Mr Netanyahu, we heard, was encouraging. He had produced "new ideas". He was enthusiastic. He was "helpful." She was very grateful to Mr Netanyabu. As for Israel's security demands - which now include a decrease in the number of Mr Arafat's policemen - "it is obviously up to Israel to decide what its security demands are ..."

But that was the whole point. Since Israel, on "security" grounds, is still refusing to give up more than 9 per cent of occupied land - an odd 11 per cent figure surfaced during the day although the Israelis would not officially confirm it – this effectively gave Israel the right to decide on the size of its withdrawals.

When we asked Mrs Albright what all those new ideas were - what possible progress she could be talking about after two days in which Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat couldn't details do not help us to move forward". It was an odd phrase

- hut oot as surprising as the admission that US proposals for Washington talks included an immediate move to what in the Osio agreement are called "final status talks" - something that Mr Netanyahu has been demanding for the past 12 months.

So what did this mean? According to Mrs Albright, an "accelerated peace process". But a glance at the Oslo treaty shows that it would probably allow Israel to stall on any further withdrawals - or reduce the Madeleine Albright looked like amount of occupied Arab land Only hours before, she had a mere 25 per cent, if that. And



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Benjamin Netanyahu: No sign of his 'new ideas'

rump of territory, carved up as it already is by roads exclusive-

ly for the use of Jewish settlers. Yet still Mrs Albright talked tanyahu had oot respooded. of progress - she used the word He was flying back to Israel to at least 18 times in just a few minconsult his cahinet. But when utes. And so did Tony Blair an hour earlier. Only Mr Arafat, partly stooped as he stood outside 10 Downing Street, gave any clue to the fantasy world in which the negotiators were immersing themselves. He had "heard" from Mrs Albright, he said, that there had been "some progress" and he would go wherever necessary to save peace.

It was when I asked him if he did not now regret signing the Oslo agreement with Israel that the old man's eyes suddenly widened and his voice took on its old strength. "The peace agreement I signed was the peace of the brave," he replied. "I signed with my partners Yitzhak Rahin, who paid with his life for this peace. It is our firm duty that we continue with the just endeavour we signed

with Mr Rabin and Peres." There was deliberately no mention of Mr Netanyahn. Indeed, in none of the sound-bites he uttered yesterday did the Israeli leader come close to Mr Arafat's albeit familiar promise. Nor did Mrs Albright. She remarked of America's peacemaking efforts that "it's up to the parties [to decide] as to whether we are serving the vegetables even bring themselves to talk to well." Perhaps that will be writeach other on the telephone - ten on Oslo's tombstooe. By we were informed that more contrast, Mr Arafat was momentarily in Jefferson mode.

Leading article, page 20

لَهَا مِن الْاصل

After the tiff, euro partners prepare to kiss and make up

French and German views on the row over the central bank chief are poles apart. John Lichfield reports from Paris and Imre Karacs from Bonn

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AVIGNON, famously, has a bridge which reaches only halfway across the river. It may provide a suitable metaphor for the state of Franco-German relations when leaders of the two countries meet in the beautiful town on the Rhône delta today.

The timing of the summit. four days after the unpleasant French-German quarrel around the cradle of the newly born euro, is either fortunate or unfortunate. The great likelihood is that President Jacques Chirac and Chancellor Helmut Kobl will seize the opportunity to give a public display of friendship and understanding (falling just short of dancing tous en rond on the bridge itself). It is in the interests of both men and both countries to do so: there is, in any case, nothing pressing left for them to quarrel about. The question remains: just how much damage was done to the Franco-German alliance - the foundationstone of the European Union

- by the weekend squabble? Some French commentators have slated Mr Chirac for behaving in such a British way and holding the rest of the EU to ransom over a point of detail. Most have brushed off the affair as the usual unseemly haggling and shricking which accompanies any great decision in the EU. The fact that the incident has been treated relatively lightly in France, and



Friends together: Chirac and Kohl will make a public display of accord Photograph: Reuters

the ultimate right of politi-

cians, and of France, to influ-

But was that worth such

grief? In the French view, some

of the German emotion has

been cranked up for the voters.

But why, then, did the divided

French give such pain to Chan-

ence such appointments.

with great fury and indignation Mostly personal pride and cellor Kohl, France's greatest stubbornness. Mr Chirac's point in Germany, is itself part of the story: the two countries may be was mostly to win a rare, perinescapable of allies but they sonal point (as a lame-duck seem no longer to understand right-wing President, baving to live with a left-of-centre govone another very well. It was important for Mr ernment); and partly to assert

Chirac to impose the French banker. Jean-Claude Trichet, as eventual head of the European central bank, for personal-political reasons, more than national-political reasons. Mr Trichet is, in truth, disliked by French politicians, including Mr Chirac, because he is seen as too German, too much of a pin-striped banker; too much of a strong-currency man, It was inevitable that Ger-

man, and British, commentators would see this as a French attempt to make the bank more political and more biddable. Under Mr Trichet, this is unlikely. It is significant that the markets, despite doomsday predictions from British Euro-sceptics, have taken a relaxed view of the weekend's brawl. The markets seem to be saying it does not make a blind bit of difference whether Mr Trichet or Dutch banker Wim Duisenberg is head of the European central bank. Why did the French President make such a fuss?

nership remains an immovable feature of the domestic, political landscape in both countries. The fundamentals have not changed. Both countries are inescapably committed to the EU and therefore to one another. The advent of the euro. arguably, condemns Paris and Bunn to get on more than ever before. But there is a difference between rubbing along, with periodic hursts of tension, and getting on well. How effectively Paris and Bonn work together is crucial to a series of decisions in the next few years on the running of the single currency and enlargement of the EU to the east (potentially the higgest of all sources of Franco-German tension). It will, it seems, be up to a new generation of politicians to solve this puzzle.

One lesson is that the French establishment has writthe most difficult election of his ten off Mr Kohl. Mr Chirac calculated he had no need to

ally and friend, in the run-up to

career? The truth is that, cmo-

Giscard-Schmidt in the 1970s.

tionally, the French-German please the old man any more. relationship is not as solid as it Almost exactly a year after Mr Chirac shot himself in the was. A new generation of politicians in both countries - even foot by calling an early gener-Mr Chirac, who was 13 in 1945 al election, the French (Social-- are not so preoccupied by the ist) European Affairs Minister, Pierre Moscovici, is reported to war. There is no personal relationship between Paris and have commented, spidely: Bonn to match the genuine "Chirac put the left in power in France in 1997; he's going to put warmth and understanding of Mitterrand-Kohl in the 1980s or the social democrats in power in Germany in 1998."



Kingdom park at Kamikuishiki, north-west of Tokyo

Kohl squirms in face of bankers' gloomy verdict

BONN - At what age are in- tween now and September, ternational statesmen over the when the Chancellor goes to the hill? Helmut Kohl, 68 years country for a fifth term. The imyoung and fresb from a slim- pression that he allowed himming course, is trying to persuade German voters he has another four years in him. Wim linger till election day. Duisenberg, in contrast, is an emaciated 62-year-old wbo clearly could not be expected to today in front of an emergency soldier on for eight years as head of the European Central Bank.

This, in essence, is the disingenuous line the German Chancellor has found himself selling since his return from Brussels. He was, he admitted, "extremely annoyed" with the horse-trading but did not consider the outcome disbonourable. Election posters saluting the "stable euro" under Mr Kohl's benevolent gaze were still prominently displayed outside Christian Democrat beadquarters yesterday.

The little family row in Brussels, a senior CDU politician predicted, would be forgotten, perhaps, in five years. In the interim, the party must fight an uphill election battle on the EMU "achievement" without drawing too much attention to the humiliation just meted out to its chief architect.

"Helmnt Kohl has certainly been damaged by this," admitted Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister. Though the money markets took the débacle in their stride, Germany's angstridden money-men are de-

spondent. "The government heads have already named the successor [to Duisenberg] and this is a breach of the [Maastricht] Treaty," lamented Klaus-Dieter Kühbacher, a member of the all-powerful Bundesbank Council. The next breach of the treaty is pre-programmed."

When the Bundesbank worthe Prozac. It matters little what currency traders do be- terrand, is about to snap.

self to be buildozed aside by the French President will certainly

It is with this in mind that the Chancellor must defend himself debate in the Bundestag, and then put on his smiling face for the meeting in Avignon with Brother Jacques. Another family squabhle can, perhaps, be concealed this time from peeping neighbours, but the damage has been done.

The minority of the German media that remain loyal to Mr Kohl speak of "long-term scars" to the special relationship between France and Germany.

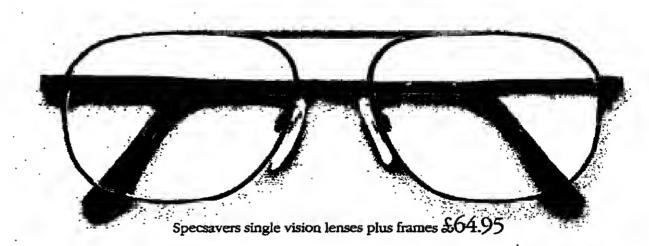
Francophiles in the Chancellor's entourage feel betrayed: the strategy of a common front with France on all major issues of European integration has been fatally undermined by the

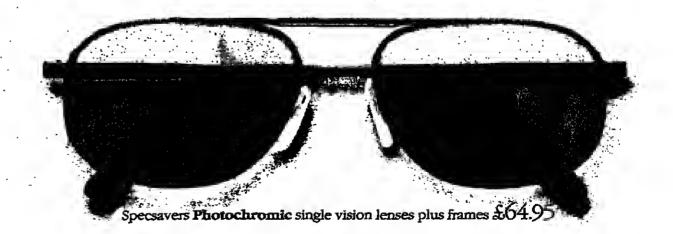
The mighty Bundesbank, which has grudgingly turned a blind eye to French accounting tricks in the past, will not forget this. Frankfurt as well as the polincians on both sides of Bonn's parliamentary divide blame President Chirac, and are openly contemptuous of his "pursual of French national interests at all cost".

How Chancellor Kohl feels about the weekend's events is somewhat less relevant, given the prospect of his imminent retirement, thanks partly to his friends in Paris. But the highhanded way in which he was treated at the weekend is seen as an affront to all of Germany: a grudge to be borne by his suc-

The infamy of Brussels is thus set to mark a turningpoint. The Franco-German axis, ries, German voters reach for more of a myth than a fact since the departure of François Mit-

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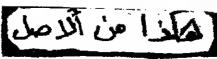
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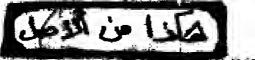
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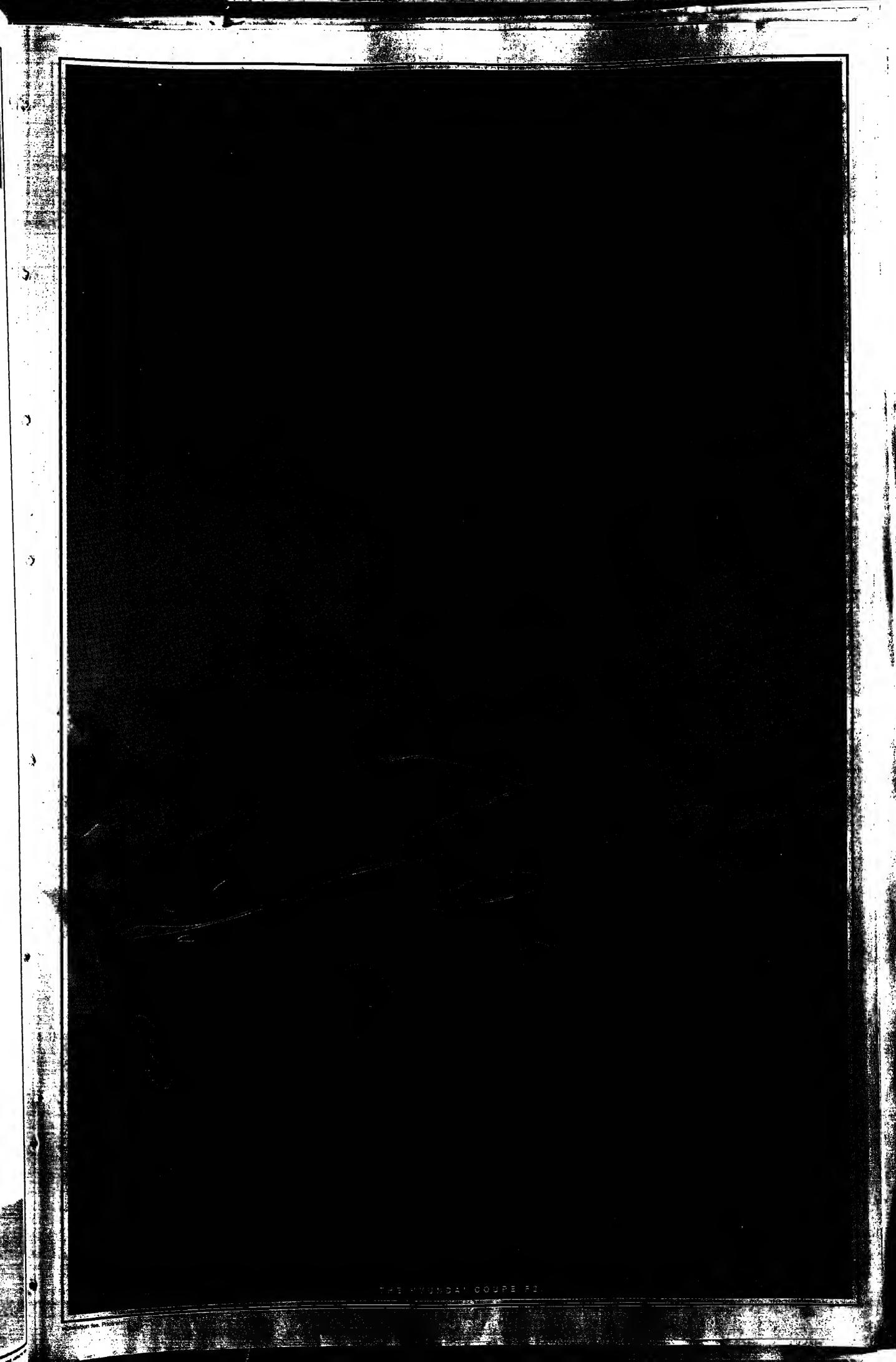
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in central St Petersburg in preparation for the Victory Day celebrations on Saturday **EPA/Aratoly Maltsey**

SA rugby on brink of boycott over race row

in Johannesburg

PRESSURE is mounting for the resignation today of South Africa's rugby supremo, Louis Luyt, 24 hours before an ultimatum runs out for him to stand down or face an international boycott which could cripple the

"Big Louis", the bluff, controversial president of the South African Rugby Football Union. (Sarfu) is accused of presiding over a game tarnished by racism, nepotism, mismanagement and financial irregularities. He resisted attempts by President Nelson Mandela to launch an inquiry into the allegations against rugby, which Mr Luyt's critics claim he runs as if it were his fiefdom. Four years ago rugby, a near-religion for many Afrikaners and often an excuse

for displays of racism and rightwing political sentiment during the apartheid era, was heralded by Mr Mandela as a sport which yet had the power to help rebuild the nation. Today there are still no black

players in the national team and only five non-whites among more than 100 players in the Super 12 competition. The rugby establishment is accused of doing nothing to take the game to the townships. Racism allegations were not helped by the resignation last year of Andre Markgraaff the national coach, after he was recorded referring to black rugby officials as "kaffirs". Last month a South African player was sent home from a topr of New Zealand after calling a black South African female fan a "kaffir".

The National Sport Council issued its boycott threat last



Luyt: A regime tainted by claims of racism and graft

month after Mr Mandela was forced to defend his political decisinn in court, when Sarfu challenged his right to launch an inquiry. The Sports Council accused Mr Luyt of "bumiliat- crative Tri-nations series. ing" the President and demanded his resignation, along with his entire executive. A the South African rugby team pariahs again.

nor Mr Luyt is budging. Yesterday the Natal Rugby Union called for him to take voluntary redundancy for the good of the game.

Mluleki George, the Sports Council president, suggested Mr Luyt's resignation alone not go, a ban on international games would come into opera-The first casualty would be the would lose the wider war. Irish tour due this month.

(Cosatu) to back the boycott, albelieved to have the support of Mr Mandela's cabinet, which might soon be notifying foreign governments that their rugby teams are not welcome in South

Cosatu yesterday called for the resignation of William de Villiers, the judge who ordered Mr Mandela to appear in court and who ruled two weeks ago that the government had no right to investigate Sarfu.

in

He has yet to give his reasons for the ruling. A Cosatu spokesman criticised the judge for calling the President to court and said he was treating Mr Mandela and the country with contempt by delaying the reasons for his judgement. Rugby experts and sponsors, who have also called nn Mr Luyt to go, say disaster looms and not just in South Africa. Australian and New Zealand rugby officials said the dispute between Sarfu and the government could force cancellation of this year's lu-

Yesterday a phone conference between rugby officials from all three countries was cansuccessful boycott would make 'celled at the last minute. "We decided ... to wait and see how things unfold," said Dick Mc-Neither the Sports Council Gruther, the Australian Rugby Union (ARU) chairman. "It's a South African problem that we are confident they will be able to resolve and we wanted to allow them that opportunity before we get involved."

He said the ARU would discuss the matter with the might be sufficient to avert the Australian government before boycott but warned that if he did deciding what further action to take. During the court case, sponsors warned that even if Mr tion by the end of the munth. Luyt won the legal battle he

Mr Luyt, it seems, is the last Yesterday the Sports Coun- to accept the inevitable. The cil was lobbying the Congress rugby writer Barry Glasspool of South African Trade Unions said yesterday that even by his own stubborn standards, Mr ready blessed by the Sports Luyt's stand was "breathtaking". Minister, Steve Tshwete, and is Glasspool said it was inconceivable the NSC would back down now, Whatever Mr Luyt believed, "nigby cannot operate without harmonious relations with the government and the

Croat death to face court

By Phil Davison Latin America Correspondent

IT WAS more than half a century later and a continent away but Dinko Sakic's leer was the same. His alleged victims -Jews, Serbs and gypsies - went to their deaths watching that same twisted smile on the face of their concentration camp commander

As his neighbours booed and jeered, Sakic, 76, pulled the derisory smile for photographers in Argentina when he was arrested last week on suspicion of war crimes. He is expected to be extradited to his native Croatia shortly to face trial in connection with tens of thousands of deaths at the notorious

Jasenovac concentration camp. Sakic admits he ran Jasenovac but insists that no one was exterminated and that the victims merely fell sick. "They died from an epidemic of typhoid. There were no cremation ovens," he stated. His lawyer said he would not fight extradition and would base his defence on the epidemic argument.

His wife, Nada, also said by Hulocaust survivors to have taken part in exterminations, has not been detained by the Argentinians.

Sakic and his wife had lived unnoticed in Argentina for 51 years but he stunned his neighbours in the Atlantic coastal resort of Santa Teresita last month by revealing his fascist past in a television interview. He said for the first time that he had been commander of Jasenovac, about 50 miles south of the



Dinko Sakic: Ran camp at

by Hitler as a buffer against Under pressure from his

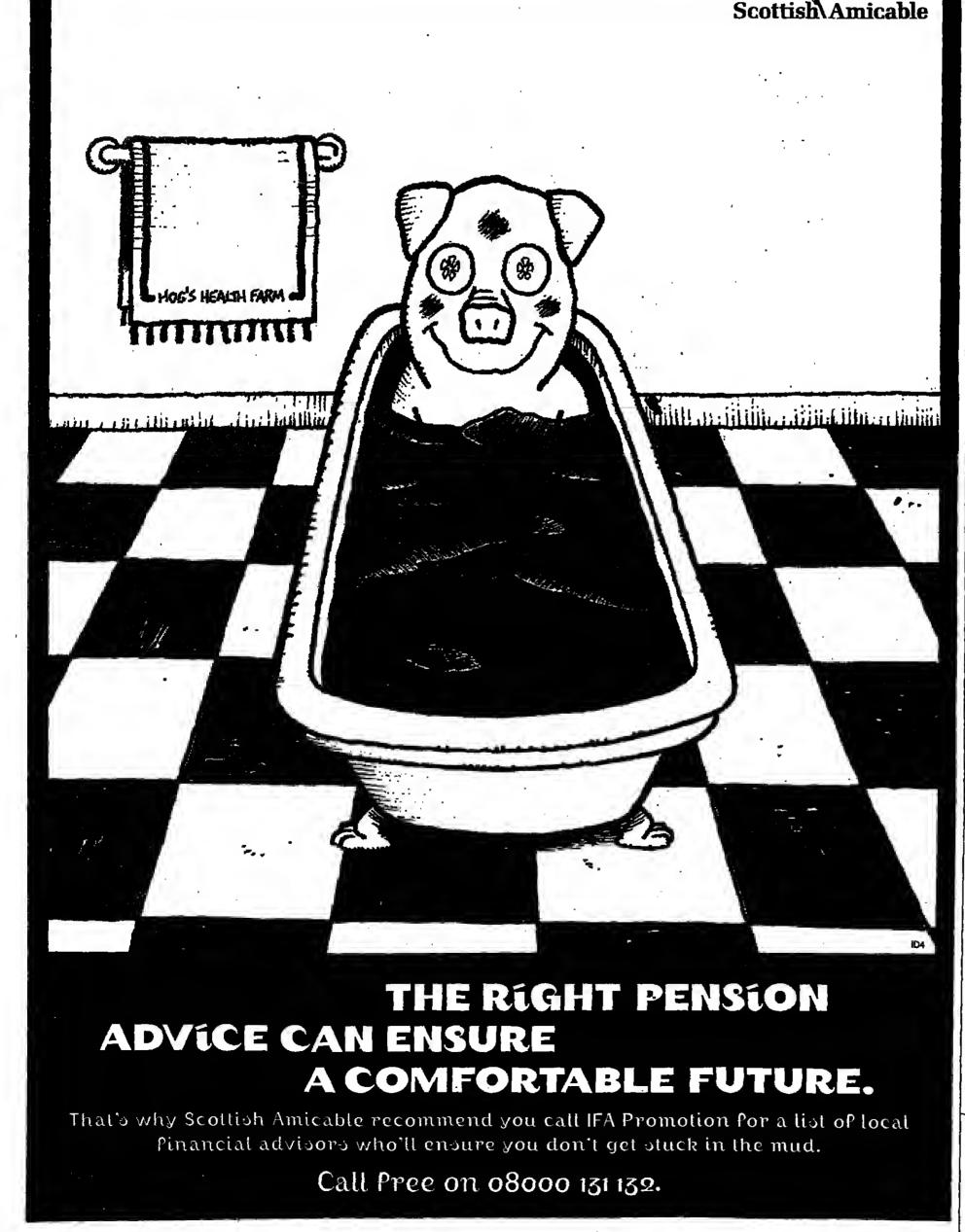
was a Nazi puppet state set up

country's powerful Jewish community, who have criticised the presence of ex-Nazis in the past, the Argentinian President, Carlos, Menem ordered his arrest.

Croatia admits that tens of thousands of Serbs. Jews and gypsics were exterminated at Jasenovac, But Serbs, Jewish groups and many historians say the figure was in the hundreds of thousands, and was comparable to Hitler's own concentration camps inside Germany and Nazi-occupied territory.

Sakic was 21 when he took control of Jasenovac in 1942 under the Nazi-backed Ustashe government of Croatia. He also oversaw another concentration camp at Stara Gradiska, southeast of Zagreb. After the war and the triumph of Tito's communists Croatian capital Zagreb from shelter in Franco's Spain befor 1942 until 1944, when Croatia fleeing to Argentina in 1947. in Yugoslavia he first received shelter in Franco's Spain before





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Israelis

at Pale:

Austria

First Lady escapes criminal indictment

By Mary Dejevsky ın Washington

HILLARY CLINTON, who set a duhious precedent for First Ladies when she was summoned for questioning by state prosecutors last year, will not be fence, it was confirmed yesterday - at least not vet.

Mrs Clinton had been questioned six times in the labyrinthine Whitewater investigation, most recently 10 days ago when her evidence was videotaped for presentation to

the grand jury. Lawyers close to the invessome of the evidence gathered other grand juries currently investigating alleged wrongdooffice and the possible misuse by the White House of FBI files; the other - whether Mr Clinton White House intern, Monica Lewinsky, and induced her to lie

about it under oath. Clinton concentrated on legal work she transacted for a failed Arkansas bank more than a decade ago. She was then a partner in the Rose law firm and her Democrats, the full tapes were husband was state governor.

the speculative development Mrs Clinton. project known as Whitewater. which was backed by the bank. in the clear over Whitewater, They were suspected of abusing neither she nor President Clintheir influence to benefit themselves and their associates - if reasserting his authority, Mr even though the project failed Starr yesterday called Vernon and the Clintons say they lost Jordan, an influential black money. That Mrs Clinton would husinessman and presidential not be indicted had been fore- confidante, to testify for the cast with increasing confidence third time before the Washingin Washington in recent weeks ton grand jury in the Lewinsky as the Arkansas grand jury ap- case. Mr Clinton's private secproached the end of its mandate. Legal specialists agreed the indictment of a First Lady was unlikely without conclusive evidence of criminal activity.

death

chief

e court

has hung over Mrs Clinton for whether Ms Lewinsky's silence much of her husband's presidency has thus been lifted. Other Clintoo associates have heen arranged for her by Mr Jordan.

less fortunate. The Clintons' former business partner, Susan McDougal, became the last person to be indicted in connection with Whitewater on Monday, when she was charged on three counts of refusing to testify and obstructiog justice. indicted for any criminal of- Mrs McDougal has already spent 18 months in prison for civil contempt for refusing to testify. She claims independent prosecutor Keoneth Starr has put pressure on her to implicate Mrs Clinton

The other, Webster Hubbell, a former partner - with Mrs Clinton - in the Rose law form and former number three at the tigation stressed, however, that US Justice Department, has also been indicted on multiple during the Whitewater inquiry counts of tax evasion and fraud. could be submitted to the two Mr Hubbell, who has already served an 18-month sentence for fraud in connection with ing by the Clintons. One is Whitewater, says he regards considering the First Lady's in- the new charges as a fresh atvolvement in dismissing mem- tempt by Mr Starr to extract inbers of the White House travel criminating evidence from him against Mrs Clinton.

Mr Huhbell subsequently found himself at the centre of may have had an affair with a a feverish bout of Washington political in-fighting over taped conversations between himself and his wife while he was in jail. The allegations against Mrs These suggested Mr Hubbell might know more about Hillary Clinton's legal work in Arkansas than he had divulged. Late on Monday, amid an outcry from released, which showed Mr The Clintons had invested in Hubbell specifically absolving

While Mrs Clinton might be ton are out of the woods yet. As retary, Betty Curry, is also expected to be re-called. Both are suspected of concealing what they know about the relationship between Mr Clinton and The judicial shadow that Ms Lewinsky, in particular may have been "bought" by a' well-paying private-sector job

Israelis accused of shooting at Palestinian reporters

ISRAELI soldiers have heen deliberately firing on Palestinian journalists covering unrest in the occupied territories, according to a report by the French-based Reporters sans Frontieres. RSF, which defends press freedom worldwide, says 25 journalists have been wounded in this way in the past 18 months. In the most recent incident, eight journalists were wounded by rubber bullets fired by Israeli soldiers while covering demonstrations in Hebron on 13 March. RSF says that it is extremely concerued about the increase in violent acts by the Israeli army against journalists in the occupied territories and called on the government to open so inquiry.

Austria marks Holocaust

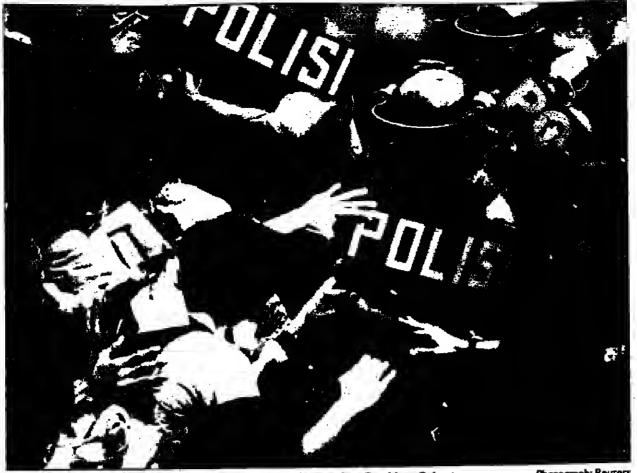
FOR the first time, Austria yesterday bonoured victims of the Holocaust with a oational day of remembrance. A solerun, nationally televised sitting of both houses of parliament and a performance of "The Diary of Anne Frank," written by the Russian Jewish composer Grigory Fried and sung by a young Israeli soprano, formed the highlight of several commemo-

Serbs warn of Kosovo war

A LEADING Serb official in Kosovo warned international powers to pressure ethnic Albanians to give up their goal of independence, or face the threat of a wider Balkan war. Veliko Odalovic, the deputy director of the Kosovo Serb government, said that such pressure "would solve many of the problems" in Serbia's ethnic Albanian-dominated Kosovo province. The warning came amid reports that Albanian militants killed two more people and were battling Serbian police near Kosovo's border with Albania for the third consecutive day.

Barrier Reef faces ruin

AUSTRALIAS Great Barrier Reef appears to be experiencing its worst case of coral hleaching. Australian marine scientists say it has hit more than 60 per cent of 3,000 coral reefs on the country's north-east coast. The bleaching is caused by rising sea temperatures and freshwater flooding. The Great Barrier Reef is the largest marine park in the world and is home to more than 300 species of coral, 4,000 shell molluses, 1,500 species of fish and several endangered species, including dugongs and loggerhead turtles.



Students and police clash during protests yesterday in Java against President Suharto

Photograph: Reuters

Indonesia police fire on rioters

By Stephen Vines

SERIOUS rioting has broken out in the Indonesian city of Medan in which the police have fired live hullets at demonstrators. It is the first time police have taken such measures since civil unrest erupted this year in response to the country's economic austerity pro-

There were reports that several protesters were injured by bullets as rioting spilled onto the town's main highway. An angry crowd is also said to have torched a police station. Thousands of rioters also looted Chineseowned stores in Medan.

Previously most protests in the Sumatran capital were confined to students but a police spokesman said yesterday: "It's not a pure studeot protest anymore, because it involves ordinary people.

There are thousands of angry people trying to burn houses. They are burning tyres and

turning over cars." Io the Indonesian capital Jakarta there was more violence as students called for the removal of President Suharto. Police fired ruhber bullets and tear gas canisters to disperse the crowd. At least five police officers and 25 students are reported to have been injured. There were also clashes between students and police in Bandung, Java.
The latest protests

emerged after the government moved to implement austerity measures demanded by the International Monetary Fund in return for a \$43bn bailout of the failing economy. Petrol prices have risen 71 per cent and kerosene, used as a cooking fuel by the poor, rose 25 per cent as a result of the. end of government subsidies.

Birmingham welcomes visitors to the International Motor Show.

(Now, there's a city that's really motoring.)

the nec birmingham



How the wild West End will be won

'Rent' has reinvented the musical on Broadway. Can an HIV rock opera do the same here? By David Benedict

THERE are no two ways about it. Rest came as bolt out of the blue. A contemporary rock opera in which La Bohème meets HIV was no-one's idea of a smashhit, but at its explosive Broadway opening two years ago. Rent was hailed as having single-handedly reinvented the musical for a whole new generation. It won everything in sight, including the Pulitzer prize; it's still doing 100 per cent husiness despite a top price of \$80; and oo Tuesday it opens at London's Shaftesbury

There are a hundred and one local factors from subject matter - love in the time of Aids - to its milieu grungy East Village types struggling with the art vs money conundrum which explain the show's monster success, but will it travel? "Heyl," laughs Jeffrey Seller, its young, excitable and, presumably, now wealthy, producer, "I feel like there's a referendum going on here. Will Rent work in London?"

Well, will it? There's solid insuroriginal leads reprising their roles, ticket can cost about that, but variations on Shaw's "two nations divided by a common language" industry. At its simplest, Rent, the creation of the late composer, writer and lyricist Jonathan Larson, follows a year in the life of three young couwhat's the problem? Take a look at the context. The easy mix of race. gender and sexuality springs naturally from the world in which it was created, but that's a long way from London's West End, Similarly, Larson's call conservative, right-wing assreimagining of, say, Puccini's tubercular heroice Mimi as an HIV-pos-Manhattan hut thus far, for many people, London's rate of infection their version of the American

lately grown more advecturous. that." Trainspotting, Popcom and notably Shopping and Fucking have confounded expectations by not only en- has gambled before and won. In 1990 joying almost indecently healthy runs, but also attracting an adven- thing from the Flying Karamazov turous new young audience into the Brothers and David Copperfield to theatrical heartland. As in New York, he's courting that crowd with a youth-orientated marketing cam- and bored. "It's fair to say." he anpaign (the posters don't even say it's a musical) and £10 day tickets for job." He filled his soare time workanyone who wants to queue for ing on off-off-Broadway shows with



ance up front with four of the show's front row seats. A West End cinema

With successful previews behind can be heard resounding around the laughter and thunderous applause seven or eight times a night - he brims with confidence, believing that the show's relationships win over audiences, even those to whom the ples who fall in and out of love. So plot elemeots might seem foreign.

e cites the three versions currently touring the USA and Canada. "In Dalias, Texas, which is the hotbed of what we might holes, we sold out. That wasn't hecause of the racial mix, HIV or the itive drug-user reflects the horrific bohemianism. We win them over incidence of HIV infection io with heart. Ultimately, it's a story about young people trying to realise just doesn't have the same urgency. Dream, and trying to figure out how Conversely, Seller can take solace to love and connect. Getting together from the fact that the West End has and breaking up, we all know ahout

> knowledged to be a risk, but Seller he was a booker for tours of every-Topol of Fiddler on the Roof. He was 25, stuck in middle-management nounces proudly, "that I hated my

him - "I'm hearing whistling and

someone no-one had ever heard of. "There's this rock band on stage and out comes this tall, lanky guy with curty hair named Jonathan Larson who launches into the story of him showing up at his surprise hirthday

party and facing the fact that he's 30.

broke, his bathtuh's in the kitchen,

his friends are moving into more fan-

The British production is ac- friends, one of whom invited him to in a diner and nobody wants to pro- professional relationship that cultinue or take the job he's been offered in an ad agency?"

the first time I'd experienced a musical that was talking directly to me and I had a very strong, visceral response to the music." He wrote to . Larson outlining his own shaky producer credentials and two weeks lat- his friends left at the interval and the cy apartments and he's still working er they forged the beginning of a third advised him to persuade

The show itself progressed through years of try-outs and Seller was bowled over. "It was rewrites. Seller took three friends along to an early reading in 1993. "It was inchoate, musically very powerful, but it was just a seed of what was to come and he hadn't yet developed plot or character." Two of

Larson to drop it and move to the next work. Over a year later, after hooking up with director Michael Greif, Larson pulled Seller back to a workshop version. "I took my business partner and to cover myself I said 'this is either going to be hril-liant or a piece of shit' but by Mimi's entrance with "Light My Candle" we were hooked." He struck a deal to help finance a production at New York Theatre Workshop in return for the future commercial rights.

His instincts were sound. The reviews for the 1996 NYTW production were ecstatic and tickets simply vanished but this off-off-Broadway venue with its large, deep stage only seats 150. With a cast of fifteen and five musicians it made no finaocial sense. Broadway proper, however, remained an intimidating

"But I got a feeling, 'if this show can't play Broadway then I gotta do ing in a diner. It was like he almost something else with my career'. I grew up wanting to work there and I thought, if this isn't Broadway then a lot of press," acknowledges Broadway aio't me any more'. Lawyers, friends and everyone told me I know you got great reviews, but do you know how many times the word 'death' is mentioned in those reviews? The downtown audience won't go uptown and the uptown audience won't go to a 'death' show. Go off-Broadway, you'll run forever'." Undeterred, he played a hunch and

Engaging: Adam Pascal as Roger and Krysten Cummings as Mimi in 'Rent' (left) and the cast of the show (below) Photographs: Nobby Clark

re-opened the show in Broadway's derelict Nederlander Theatre, virtually unused since 1980. Two years later and counting, Seller can lumriate in the knowledge that he was

Part of his conviction stemmed from the unusually convincing chemistry hetween Larson's dramatic material and his use of rock music. "Most kids who grow up wanting to write Broadway shows don't know the rock vernacular. Theo you have middle-aged rock'n'roll people who see an audience for the music, but they don't have the experience of writing character or plot-driven song. Jonathan grew up in the 70s and loved Billy. Joel and Elton John ... he knew how to get the pump of an electric guitar into music that tells a story."

The analysis is right. Rock musical hits are virtually non-existent. Hair had a great score and novelty value (its youthful, iconoclastic view and the nudity) but was really a revue and Jesus Christ Superstar is far more successful musically than dramatically. Even Paul Simon had a mega-flop with The Capeman. The staging of Tommy collapsed over here although it had much longer run in the USA. Even there it barely made a profit. According to Seller, investors made two cents oo every dollar for the New York run. The smart guys who paid for Rent have more than quadrupled their investment. (Now you know why people keep producing expensive musicals).

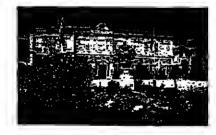
There was one other reason for the storm of publicity surrounding the workshop production. Hours after the dress rehearsal, Jonathan Larson suddenly died of an aortic ancurysm. He oever saw his success. "You didn't have to know him to mourn him. He was a bobemian artist with a bathtub in his kitchen who until six weeks before he died was workbecame a character in his own play. It was a strange, awful fate that got er, quietly.

"Did it help catapult Rent into the stratosphere? Yes. Did it have anything to do with its long-term success? No. Three years later people are still going because they want to see the show."

'Rent' is at the Shaftesbury Theatre (0171-379 5399) £10 tickets are available two hours before curtain-up.

INDEPENDENT

WIN a champagne weekend break at Down Hall Country House Hotel



Take part in our unique competition and you could he pampering yourself with a luxurious weekend break at Down Hall Country House Hotel, an elegant Italian style mansion, near Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire.

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If you are not lucky enough to win why not take advantage of the following exclusive affer for independent readers? 25% off-weekend breaks at Down Hall weekend breaks at Down Hall Country House Hotel. Just £52.50 per person, per night includes knowy occommodation, full English breakfast, dinner and complimentary use of the leisure fucilities. This offer is based on two sharing a double/twin room for a minimum two night stay. It is valid and 31st July 1998, subject to availability. To book call Down Hall Country House Hotel on 01279 Country House Hotel on 01279 731441, mentioning The

Revival finds a league of its own

Shooting Star Chester Gateway Theatre

IMAGINE: a star footballer, say David Beckham, combs his centre-parting to ask a favour of his fiancee's employer. Can Vicky bave oext Wednesday and Thursday off so we can get married? Two days! But the emplayer happens also to be the chairman of a rival club, currently in a comic state of disarray, and he spies a chance to save his team.

How does a transfer, a parttime job in the firm's packing department, on top of your £12 a week, and a little house so you won't have to live with Vicky's folks, sound to you? Yes please Mr Sugar, says the

forelock, Mr Ferguson doesn't like me dribbling at United.

The Professional Footballers Association should have demanded to sponsor Chester Gateway's ingenious idea to revive Basil Thomas' 1948 football comedy Shooting Star since it serves to show exactly how they can now afford to do so. In that era of the leather ball, the 2pm kick-off and the maximum wage, the footballer is Red Rutter, "the Dribbler", of Todchester Rovers (Tony Forsyth), and the chairman Joseph Lawson (Kenneth Gilbert) who has let his printing business go to pot in his quest for trophies

for Burnville United. Appropriately there is not a directed the West End pre- an industry reluctant to mod- er of her "young man" really is.

earnest Becksy, searching for his glimpse of green here for the miere of Shooting Star, as he did, real action is in office and among many others, Rattigan's boardroom, beautifully recre- The Deep Blue Sea. He can ated in period by Norman clearly still cover every blade of Coates with its wooden filing grass. But the future can be

> pretension at all to be a serious "issues" play dealing so effectively with ground-level economics

cabinets, ponderous panelling glimpsed working itself up. and yards of full worsted. More-Lawsoo's firm is sliding toover, it is staged by someone who was there: Frith Banbury wards failure is a microcosm of

tional clients. This action is perceptively and quite movingly associated with the hesitant Lawson's secretary (Angela it is fascinating to see a work with no Scoular) and the major client's rep, excellently played Philip Bond. It is fascinating to see a work with no pretension at all .

> the future economics of football are also in sight. Apparently a hntterwouldn't-melt office mouse The parallel plot in which Ned's fiancee Mavis sees exactly the injustice of the chattel system and what the earning pow-

ernise and trading on the un-

critical patronage of its tradi-

to be a serious "issues" play

dealing so effectively with ground-level economics. And

like porcelain but she shows Mavis has certainly some shot on her. Perhaps, back in 1948, Jimmy Hill was in the gods takmiddle-aged romance of ing notes. Unfortunately the play recoils from modernity with the revanchism of Corinthian values in the person of the old amateur and new chairman Jack Bannerman (Antony Gabriel).

The game's the thing once more, and gone is the old deference. When Mavis tries to open negotiations with him she is quickly silenced. But not for long, oot for long.

Shooting Star runs until 23 May: tickets 01244 340392

Jeffrey Wainwright

Wilde's wit falls victim to a singing spectre

The Canterville Ghost. Northcott Theatre,

OSCAR WILDE'S whimsical short story has survived a film. with Charles Laughton mugging for dear life, hat even when filled out with the telling of Wilde's children stories, The Happy Price, there is hardly enough substance for a mnsical. This is not the Wilde of the scathing wit. Just light humour with a touch of senti-

It may have been the pres-

chestra pit, or the baronial ball set, but I had the impression that we were in for a 1920's style musical comedy. The Canterville Ghost proves 10 be a bit more substantial than that; although the songs seem to spring out of nowhere in the musical comedy tradition.

A story of how an American family invade a stately bome dates from the time when Americans wore check suits and big cigars, made vast fortunes from the invention of gadgets, and were loud and hrash and supremely insensience of musicians in the or- tive to British traditions and

tish boy twins and deep feeling gatory by a young girl's lears. Step forward Virginia, the young daughter, help to release The Canterville Ghost from youngest Ous, imbued with a Ron Moody's predicament engages

the audience and his presence carries the show beyond its expectations

culture. Hiram Otis and ancient rhyme the ghost can

Lucretia Otis, with their brat- only be released from his pur-

400 years of frightening mol-strong streak of sentimentally ecules. The Otis tribe exorcise for helpless aberrations. There the ghost by simply not be- arc some good songs. "A Ray lieving in him. According to an of Light", sung by ghost Ron

ular tear-stained ballet, and Charles Miller's music has a lyrical lilt which lasts throughout. Peter Quilter's script sticks slavishly to the original. Only his song lyrics add anything new. The Canterville Ghost has some period charm but is essentially light-weight. There are times when Ron Moody's predicament engages the au-dience. His considerable stage presence carries the show beyond its expectations. The Otis family. Steven Wickham, Corinna Powlasand, the twins

tle through optimism of a pop-

Moody, has the endearing bat-Gavin Eaton and Jamie Golding, and Sheli Andrew as the catalyst juvenile go through their routines efficiently. Nicola Sloane, the doomy housekeeper, has a few numbers in the Ivor Novello mould.

The production, by Brian De Savo, is full of thumps and flashes and a couple of stage illusions - the big finish when the Ghost ascends a staircase into the clouds sent the andience away happy.

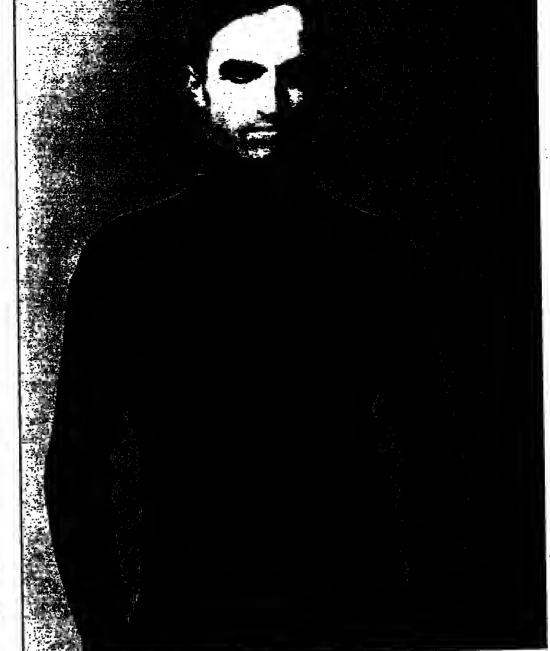
The Canterville Ghost

runs until the 23rd May. Allen Saddler



17/FASHION

The man who turned Madonna into a Goth



Right: Nicolas Ghesquiere, head designer at

When Madonna gives a designer her seal of approval, his success is assured. Nicolas Ghesquiere, the new man at Balenciaga, cannot fail: the pop star is already quite a fan. Ian Phillips meets the great couturier's latest successor at his Paris studio



Crèpe dress with kimono steeves by Balanciaga, £915 from Joseph, 77/79 Fulham Road, London, SW3. Enquiries: 0171 823 9500.



Madonna gave Ghesquiere his first public outing, when she wore one of his monastic designs to the Golden Globe Awards earlier in the year



Asymmetric cape top, £575, and matching trousers, £279, from Joseph as before Photographs: Ben Elwes

WHEN the fashion house Balenciaga was looking for a new designer early last year, there were reports that it was planning to bring in a hig-shot designer. The names of Helmut Lang and Yohji Yamamoto were bandied about. The fashioo flock started to get all flustered. Then, it known 26-year-old called Nicolas the squiere would actually be taking over. To which the general reaction was "Er, who?"

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A PORT TO BE

Jeffrey Wainwright

Atten Suddier

The last of the la

At the same time, Ghesquiere was also hired to design the women's collection for customers, and just 12 months later both appointments look like an incredibly smart move. His latest colleccoo for Baleociaga was the highlight of Paris Fashioo Week, and shortly after his first collection in October, Madonna adopted him as ooe of her oew fashion darlings.

At the Golden Globes in January, she chose oot to wear any of her favoured designers, such as Dolce & Gabbana or Versace. Instead, she turned up in a long-sleeved, full-skirted black Palenciaga dress, which she de-saribed as "Goth". On a trip to new album, she took time out to

pop into Balenciaga for a fitting

pop into Balenciaga for a fitting

pop into Balenciaga for a fitting

and walked away with a choice door, the American departof 10 outfits for the Academy ment store Barneys is placing an Awards. On the night, she chose to wear an outfit by the latest avant-garde designer on the block, Olivier Theyskens, hut

that's another story. When asked about his most famous client, Ghesquiere is was announced that an uo- suitably discreet. He will, nevcovered his creations during a shoot for Spin magazine with Dutch photographer Inez van Lamsweerde (a big fan of Ghesquiere). "She immediately fell for my clothes," he says. "She feels they fit into the new direction she wants to take and have obvious links to religioosomething which has always

fascinated her." Indeed, Ghesquiere admits to being very attracted by the mooastic aesthetic, as indeed was the old master Cristobal Balenciaga himself. In the collection for autumn/winter '98, it was appareot in the pared-down, sombre, black forms and clothes inspired by capes and cassocks. Right up until the last minote, Ghesquiere had even planned to tie thick ropes around the models' waists in the guise of belts.

by Jean-Paul Gaultier. For him, Balenciaga, who set up his first couture business

of Dior and says that he often

admires John Galliano's Mer-

cedes as he drives by. "When I

walk out of the door with my ny-

lon bag on my back in the

evening, I say to myself, "Life's

His passion and eothusiasm

are quite infectious, and par-

ticularly evident when he re-

counts how he has always

wanted to be a fashion design-

er. As a child, his pareots wor-

ried about him because he

would spend all of his holiday

sketching clothes - even on the

beach. In secondary school, he

used to give the local butcher's

daughter fashioo lessons and at

the age of 15, spect his summer

working for Agnés b. At 18, he

was hired as a design assistant

oot fair," he jokes.

ered in pictures of nuns. Next Paris in 1968, is one of the top three couturiers in fashion history. Balenciaga died in 1972, but the house is now set to flourish again under Ghesquiere; since Ghesquiere himself is sitting taking over the design helm, the at a marble desk, dressed in a young designer has managed to long-sleeved black T-shirt with revive the great Spaniard's style. his long hair scrunched up at the There is the same purity in the back of his head with the aid of lines, the same bubble shapes an elastic band. Out of the winand the same analysis of voldow, he has a view of the House

umes, and the same relentless modernity. "Balenciaga took his inspiration from Velasquez," he says, "I take mine from Princess of Parisian couture in San Se-wish.

Leia's dress in Star Wars." The construction of each piece is carefully thought out and highly original. Skirts, for example, consist of four separate panels. Tunic-style tops have sleeves at the front, but look like capes from the back.

"I really don't have too much trouble designing," he says, "because Balenciaga's heritage is so inspirational." He certainly seems well informed about the late couturier's life - how he started off reproducing models a worthy heir to carry out his

bastian; how he was "oot at all sociable, hut rather solitary, discreet and stern"; and how, when he announced that he was quitting fashion, Christian Dior himself came to beg him to con-

"Before he quit, Balenciaga did say one thing," he continues. That he regretted not being younger so that he could do a ready-to-wear collection for a younger, more active woman." In Ghesquiere, at least, he has

HOT THING



Odeur 53 by Comme des Garcons

'odeur' being sold as a perfume. Or is it just an odeur? It is called Odeur 53, (imagine saying that, from Comme des Garshould someone ask what is that scent?"), it by Kawakubo) is clunky comes from 'ooses' at and gorgeous, it is highly the laboratory of In- conceptual, and involves ternational Flavour and 'a process' to gain the fi-Fragrance, and was nal result, which is sure to commissioned by Rei please Comme fans. Kawakubo of Commes des Garcons, who is this fragrance is the first launching it to an unsus- step away from ozonic

smell is unique too, which is rare. The IFF describes it as '53 abstract notions evoking images, creating your own air around you,' and 'a memory of a ing drying in the wind, ea. 2445 burnt rubber and the Melanie Rickey

TT IS most hizarre. A freshness of oxygen, using perfume that is not a perfume, and yet is an nothing from nature, and thus is truly environmen-

tally friendly. Because it is comes cons, the bottle (designed More than that, however, pecting public on 11 May. scents like the unisex cK As a concept, it rede- One, and the next step tofines the whole idea of wards the millennium. modern perfume, and the And what's more, the smell, which is also unisex. is quite addictive. A sure

exclusively from Liberty, smell', and after spritzing Regent Street, London WI it around it does seems from 11 May for two weeks. more akin to a breath of 200ml eau de toilette, £39, fresh air than an actual 15ml eau de toilette, £13. smell. This is because it From 25 May it will be has been made by chem- available from leading deically recreating 53 inox- parament stores nationwide. ganic smells, such as sand For mail order inquiries, call dunes, fire energy, wash- Liberty on 0171 734 1234

OUT OF THE **BATHROOM CABINET**

Gwyneth Paltrow

SHE is dressed by Don na Karan for her role in Great Expectations and by Calvin Klein in Stiding Doors. She has become fashion's most wanted woman. Even her nails have a designer label slapped on them. They are painted courtesy of radical Californian cosmetics company, Urban Decay. The range includes Meltdown (metallic blue) and Snow (pearly yellow). The price is £11.50, but when you're Gwyneth Paltrow, the entire range comes with the territory. For stockist information and mail order, ring 0171-Susanna Cohen





Now listen to me: 'Our mother was a classic single parent with five children, long before we knew there was such a thing as a single parent' Photograph: Peter Macdiannid

The other Mr Straw

Ed, brother of the more famous lack, has grown up the hard way. Jack O'Sullivan meets the Home Secretary's brother

HE looks alarmingly like his older hrother. Those severe, angular features, the same steely, greying hair, that firm, points with the determination of Thomas Gradgrind. And, likewise, there is some of the Dickensian teacher's grim-

life was not always so easy. Ed Straw, the Home Secretary's younger hrother, is setting out his prescription for better relationships and better parenting. National TV should, he argues in a detailed and influential report, have to devote two hours a week to the subject. A huge campaign should be waged, equivalent to the drink-drive campaign in its capacity to change attitudes. Proper support and advice for couples and families could save the Treasury £4bn a year - the cost, he says, of broken families.

But what is he like, this prophet of marital bliss, whose family connection has prompted such attention to his message? Will Ed turn out to he aa repeat of the naff Ter-

mer Prime Minister?

The form is not good, Only last year, as Jack Straw frogsquared off finger making marched his 17-year-old son, supplyiog cannahis, Uncle with when I got older." Ed's history was dragged up. ties, claimed a fellow student.

In fact, Ed Straw is probably as respected in his field as hrother Jack is in the political world. A partner at Coopers & Lybrand, the management consultants, he has run nnsuccessfully for the chairmanship and specialises in media husinesses. His expertise in relationships springs ostensihly from being chairman of the trustees of Relate, with which he has been involved for 12 years. But his authority comes from being trained in a hard school - the

Straw family. When Ed Straw was eight left home. They saw him again a couple of months later. Ed

shadow haunted our own for- he explains. "At some level 1 There were five children, other. We both have families beiled 'Does not exist'. I look back now and realise that was totally the wrong thing to do, William, down to the police but it was a way of coping with station over allegations of a situation, which I persisted

Why, I asked, had his father ness lingering around a lean Ed had been "an enthusiastic not seen him for so long? Ed, figure, which seems to say that user" of dope back in the Six-oow 49, chooses his words kindly. He seems a warmer, less wary figure than his brother. Perhaps it's not wearing glasses. Or not belonging to the Labour Party. Or maybe the dope softened him up a bil all those years ago. "I think," he says, "people underestimate the emotional roller-coaster that the non-custodial parent goes through when seeing their, children fleetingly.

"As a consequence, a lot of fathers find the easiest option is to separate completely."

His parents had never eojoyed a good relationship. "It started during the War. Like n lot of people, they went into it and Jack was 11, their father with great hope, but h got more difficult from then on. The only way to describe it is as 'high in was 43 when they next met. conflict'. It was not physically he as repeat of the naff Ter-ry Major-Ball, whose filial time not to see your father." violent -hut words can be just as hurtful as physical violence.

put my father into a box la- which just added to the burden of the relationship."-

His father remarried a woman who already had children. He worked in insurance and eventually became a technical librarian at Stansted airport before retirement. Some money found its way back to rails. On the vicious circle of mother, a mursery teacher, raised them alone in a council house in Essex. Jack, Ed and their younger hrother, Willie, all won scholarships to an Essex boarding school.

"Our mother," he says, "was a classic single parent with five children living in a council house long before we knew there was such a thing as single parents. It was completely novel. But we just got on with our lives." Did Jack, I wonder, play a fatherhood role as the eldest of the three boys? "No, that wasn't the dynamic we had. I tended to pair off more with Willie, and younger sister, Helen, while Jack paired off

with our eldest sister, Suc." Are they close now? "To be honest we get on with our lives. We were once described as 'good hrothers'. We like each

and our families see each other from time to time."

You cannot, bowever, avoid reading a little filial tension into some of Ed Straw's outspoken statements on the failures of the state to rehabilitate voungsters who go off the domestic ahuse, crime and then state punishment, he de clares: "You could not do more for ensuring the continuance of domestic violence if you tried. Yet members of the .a country which has the high-Government defend it."

And he regrets unwillingness to tackle family problems more imaginatively. "The Government is scared witless. Given the hackground, they are hardly going to say, 'How about a back to basics campaign'. It is a poisoned chalice, and so arms-length organisations are

needed to do this work." Ed Straw now sees his father regularly. "I spoke to him last night." he says. Ironically. just a year after meeting up with him again, Ed Straw's own marriage hroke up, after he and his wife had had three children, now aged 22, 20 and 17.

But this time, the outcome

Relative Values: Support for Relationships and Parenting by Ed Straw is available for £4.95 plus 60 p&p from Demos. 0171

as Ed Straw.

has been different. The chil-

dren stayed with their mother,

but their father has a home 200

yards away. "Far from losing

touch, I feel that we are now

So what made his own mar-

riage flounder? Ed Straw is as

magnanimous to his ex-wife and

he is to his father, "I think I was

a far better natural parent than

ly recommends Ed Straw as

someone with the answers for

est divorce rate in Europe. But

you have to give him credit for

his openness. He even admits

that, when his own marriage got

into trouble, he did not call oo

the services of counsellors, nor

indeed of Relate, with which he

had already been involved pro-

fessionally for several years.

Like most people who need

such help, those who need it

most find it hardest to ask. Even

when they are as knowledgeable

Perhaps all this history hard-

very close."

Are chocoholics safe from the pods of doom?

World supplies of chocolate are under threat from a deadly blight. Ann Treneman is griefstricken :

UNTIL yesterday, hlack pod disease was the least of my worries. In fact, I didn't even know it existed. And then came the breakfast phone call. "Have you seen the news about chocolate? It's under threat!" said someone who may once have been classified as a friend. "Black pod disease is threatening to wipe out the cacao bean and that means chocolate could be as expensive as filet mignon! Will you be able to af-

I poured myself another bowl of Choco-Flakes and reminded myself to screen my calls more carefully. Then I started to worry. Black pod disease sounded pretty bad: in fact, give or take a word or two, it could be the hlack death. Other questions hovered. Could it be related to Black Rod? And how did Ebola figure in all of this? And still the voice in my ear did not stop: "And there is also something called Witches' Broom which is killing all the trees in Brazil!"

I put the phone down and took stock. How had the supply of Terry's Chocolate Oranges been allowed to drop below five and why hadn't I purchased Cadbury's Mini-Eggs when they were a multi-buy bargain? The truth was that I was only a couple of dozen of Penguins away from a chocolate crisis.

But surely there must be some mistake. Perhaps it was just a case of those bastards who love to taunt us with the latest health news/scares/terrors having a bit of fun. If hlack pod disease was really about to make Mini-Eggs extinct, wouldn't I have known about this? But then I saw the news for myself, strain of the lethal black pod disease is threatening more than a millions tons of cocoa, leading food experts to predict a world shortage of chocolate."

Life was so unfair! Now what were those of us who rely on chocolate for our supplies of the stimulant theobromine and the love-drug phenylethylamine to do? Obviously such things would soon have to be obtained illegally in dark car parks and pub loos. A life of crime awaited. Our only hope was that New Labour would allow chocolate to be prescribed on the NHS. I could see the patches now.

But I seemed to be getting ahead of myself. First, surely, more information on black pod was required. It turns out that this thing is a cousin of potato hlight, and once the fungus at any time.

gets into a pod it all goes rotten. (Pods, just in case you haven't read Encylopaedia Britannica lately, are produced by the slow-growing trees after six years, are the size of small: footballs and contain 40 cocoa beans each.) According to Tony Lass, an expert at Cadbury, a new strain of black pod has evolved in Africa and had quickly spread to the border of the Ivory Coast. "It's now sitting on the frontier," said Mr Lass, "where a million tons of cocoa a year is under threat." I had no faith in Ivory Coast

frontier control and immediately tried to ring Mr Lass at Cachury's. He was "out" for the afternoon but there was a Mr Tony Frost who was speaking on behalf of black pod. "There is a new strain. What is it called? Black pod actually. A new strain of an old friend," he said with what could have been regarded as a dangerous nonchalance. "This news really came out of a conference held in Panama on what could be done to counter the pests and diseases besetting the cocoa plant. But you've got to keep in mind that we already lose 20 to 30 per cent of production to



get that into context."

So what does that mean? Reprieve for Mini-Eggs? "This is certainly oot a plague and the price is not going to shoot up to that of fillet steak," he said. I started to feel better and, as Mr Frost let rip with lots of info better if the cocoa growers know each tree individually, i even began to relax. He began to tell me about pod borers (no relation to black pod, thankfully) and gave a very entertaining account of how Witches' Broom affects the flowers and causes tendril-like growths on the trees instead. "In fact, in Brazil we lost half of the product in one year and I don't suppose you even noticed," he said.

Sweet relief! And Alan Porter at the Chocolate Society was equally upbeat. "No, there: are no worries. It's just hype." There really is no major crisis. But, I can't help but worry and perhaps it wouldn't hurt to stock up oo Mini-Eggs just this once. After all, another lethal strain of hlack pod could strike

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The man who's selling Diana to the people

SHORT, balding and bespec-tacled, he looks a hit like Nick Horaby. Dave Brett could have turned out to be a real-life version of Roh Fleming, the music-ohsessive around whom Homby based his best-selling novel High Fidelity.

Like Fleming, he rejected the option of a regular career in favour of setting up a backstreet record shop. But while the neurotic Fleming allowed his life and his shop to drift, Brett has turned his business into a £30m-a-year operation.

Not only does he now own six record stores, he is fast becoming Britain's Mr Box Office. He now presides over the largest ticket agency in British ownership. With sales reaching over a million tickets a year, he can now give the two giants, American-owned Ticketmaster and Canadian First Call, a run for their money.

Yet until now few people have been aware of Dave Brett. They think they are buying tickets from radio stations and NME and Melody Maker when in fact they are buying via his Nottingham-based Way Ahead group, which has kept the name nf the tiny record store Brett opened 17 years ago.

Theo earlier this year, Brett woo one of the most coveted deals ever: Way Ahead was chosen as the agent with the sole rights for selling all the tickets to the Diana museum at Althorp Park, the final resting place of the Princess of Wales. Way Ahead is used to cop-

ing with demand: wheo Oasis played at Knebworth io 1996, it shifted a quarter of a million tickets inside a day and took 60,000 fans to the show in a fleet of 1,200 coaches. But nothing could have prepared the compuny for the onslaught on their telephone system on January 5, the day that tickets went on sale for Althorp. Although the ticket lines did not open until 9am, the company received 10,000 enquiries between midnight

and 6am. Rob Wilmshurst, Way Ahead's 28-year-old general manager, says that when the tines did open, many callers were emotional and, believing they were calling Althorp, asked to leave messages of condolence for the Speacer family. Within four days, 140,000 of the 152,000 tickets had been sold.

to visit the museum that they



owner Dave Brett Photograph: John Lawrence

called as soon as they could, without knowing exactly where Althorp was. But they were keen to know what they might see. In fact, each ticket allows them entry to the museum in a converted 18th-century stable house, filled with memorabilia including family photographs, cine film and other mementoes with a selection of tributes and condolence books that were sent to the Spencer family.

Earl Spencer was severely criticised for charging £9.50 Many callers were so keen per ticket, and Way Ahead is at pains to stress that this is not a profit-making vecture for the hibition Centre in Birmingcompany. But the deal huys it prestige it would take years to otherwise ohtain. "[Althorp] are not doing this for any commercial reason.

They are not going to advertise this," Mr Wilmshurst says. As a consequence, nearly eight thousand tickets remain unsold, with Althorp due to open its gates for two months on July 1. He is convinced that the explanation for the unsold tickets

is that the public firmly believes all of them were sold in the stampede of the first week of January. "Without a doubt people would be surprised to find out that tickets are still available," he says,

"This moves into a completely different area from the rock and pop arena."

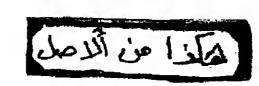
Indeed, Dave Brett has come a long way since the days when he sold Judas Priest LPs for a profit margin of one and a half pence a copy.

The ticket operation began as an across the counter service, a way of helping some of his record shop's customers get to coocerts out of town by laying on coach trips. It was the revolution in independent radio. the opening of the National Exham, and Brett's willingness to emhrace new technology, that made Way Ahead the higgest box office operator outside Londoo.

It is technology that has transformed people's tickethuving hahits. The days of fans queueing for hours to huy tickcus outside a venue as soon, dates were announced are long gone. When tickets recently went on sale for the Spice Girls live shows in Loodon and Sheffield only five people bothered to quene outside Way Ahead for tickets. By contrast,

1,000 booked via the Internet. Now 44. Brett recalls watching "just about every band on the live circuit". His lifestyle today, though, is "oot very rock o'roll": he tives alone in a Nottinghamshire village and drives a Range Rover. The man who used to ruh shoulders with Bono oow concentrates on showing his prize-winning hull mastiff, Molly, at Cruft's. "Tve got 16 orders for pupples from all over the world," he says, with as much pride as if he was announcing a ticketing deal with the rock superstars of the age.

lan Burrell



Denis Goacher

DENIS GOACHER believed Theatre, translating for Julin himself to be a "strolling player", a "troubadour". Primarily a stage actor, then radio actor, later he existed on his looks and wirs; as poet. How be scored the line between media, and when this line broke, is hard to

Script-writing and acting for the BBC's Third Programme, produced by D.G. Brideson. awrence Gillam and Douglas Cleverdon, led to hroadcasts charting Rimhaud and Verlaine's London affair, a oneman show on Byron, readings from e.e. cummings, Raleigh and Shakespeare, and programmes on Ezra Pound, and Basil Bunting.

Five tail linney nor shippon has

That synod of poets'll filch sweet note the first falters they like you sing

He was born in London, an bly child in working-class Pimnco, in 1925. His father, a selfemployed travelling textile When they moved to Birmingham the wartime bombing closed his grammar school. Instead of becoming an evacuee he became a boy actor, first at with Peter Whigham's, anoththe Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham, then in London at St James's and the Albany, The chance of the West End never came again. Goacher did repertory at Salisbury and Hayes, and worked for Ensa. Perhaps this the origin of his wanderlust

At 19 he married Margaret Vines, whom he met at St James's, an actress who in the 1930s was considered Peggy Ashcroft's equal. He worked with A.E. Matthews, and was wrote him a part. In repertory he founded frieodships with Basil Sydney, Margaret Verney, Michael Gough and Keoneth Williams. Connecting with Williams years later, when Carry On had become so popular, he asked why Williams lost touch. "Oh Denis," said Williams. "I thought you would

be ashamed of me. a documentary on Williams, to which Goacher contributes. Gregarious, generous, yet mercurial at 43. Logbook, published in and intolerant, he remained land to his first profession.

Post-war theatre sustained him until he found it corrupt- of the field spider, the speeded by kitcheo-sink drama. He excelled oo stage and radio, at lungs like bellows, in monocle, Bernard Miles's Mermaid silk dressing gown, or suede

Barton at the Royal Shakespeare Company, and in Pound's adaptation of Sophocles' Women of Trachis. Vines's career tailed off, subsumed by children from ber first marriage.

Drawn hy a new relationship with a sculptor, Simone Paurd, Goacher divided his time between freelancing in London and in Paris where he learned Provençal, medieval and 19thcentury French. He would soon have use of it.

Arthur C. Rank tried to persuade him to become a "matinée idol". He went not to Hollywood, but Washington in 1953, becoming Ezra Pound's secretary, visiting him at St Elizabeth's Hospital, typing his pronouncements, his poetry. His careful documentation of Pound's predicament at the time, and the campaign for his release, remains crucial. He hecame lifelong frieods with Basil Bunting - sent to meet him by Pound. Bunting had fallen silent after The Spoils, grieving the death of his first son, Rustam. Goacher was guick merchaot, paid for private to broadcast Buoting's work lessons for him with an actor, on the BBC. This remains insufficiently recognised.

Clear Lake Comes From Enjoyment (1959) interspersed Denis Goacher's early poetry er rival for Poundian anointation. They both regularly visited Dorothy and Ezra Pound at Brunnenhurg Castle in Turin. He became drama critic for Oswald Mosley's the European. In 1962 Louis MacNeice commissioned his translations from Daote's Inferno for the BBC.

In 1968 Goacher had a daughter, Koré, with Hermione Russell, moving near Peppercombe, where Turner had painted, in oorth Devon. Moving proud that Freddie Lonsdale inland, to Wembworthy, with another child, Pabrice, alongside two sons from Russell's first marriage, he continued to work, He performed in Colin Davis's production of Stravinsky's Oedipus Rex and a one-man show of Byron at the Royal Court.

At Dioné House, a dilapidated rectory, chickens roosted oo lavatory seats, the pump-This mooth the BBC screens horse would climb the stairs in sell, Soldier On (1973) and Rid Poros. The unpublished Now hopes of company. Goacher ing High (1974). Domestically, stands as his supreme achievelocated his true poetic voice late, 1972, was resonant for its diction, inversion, attention paid in short lines to minuscule detail well. Tall, curly-haired, with



Goacher as Alain in the R.L. Stevenson story St Ives, 1960

jacket and white plimsolls, he tramped miles planning his poems. He punctuated puh hours by reveries on oearby benches. Even in hlizzards he would negotiate drifts higher than hedges to the pub. Most publicans retained a "reading corner" for him. He wrote in many churches; they were empty enough.

Grosseteste Press ran for five years at Dioné House, publishing his Transversions, reoditions of the Arch Poet, Corbière, Michaux. Basil Bunting and John Riley came to stay. Six miles away, Sean Rafferty shied at visiting. Insisting Rafferty was concealing poetry, he coerced this shy Scottish publican into print at Grosseteste.

Joining Bunting at the ICA memorial to Ezra Pound, he also continued broadcasting for Douglas Cleverdon. He ghosted two autobiographies for the water frequently froze, and a blind colooel Sir Michael An however, he had ootstayed his welcome, and quit for Poros. Sky-blue dragon-files poise and

spring, with Greek marguerites brighter than guineas rich more sunny than Montezuma's

and all steady stars, nearer an egg-yolk without its glare

Although he soon returned, fathering two more children, Orlando and Columbine, support for Pound's troubadours had faded. His next two books, published only in America, To Romany (1976) and If Hell, Hellas (1980), alienated British support, Denied an invitation to Buoting's 80th hirthday readings, which hurt, he severed all working ties with England, except Durham University's Bunting Archive. He never worked again in the theatre. To-

day it seems only the obituary

honours the life-work of con-

tributors to the English poetry

renaissance. Health and morale broke down, and his writing faltered. In 1984 he settled in Deyà to be near Robert Graves and his spirits momentarily revived. He hegan Now, demarking his There, souterrain, nocturnal, route for the cargo of location, he wrote satires, seated below love, the everyday of Deya, ment, one of the finest long poems of the 1980s. It is an idiosyncratic, strangely timeless and inooceot lyric, deftly simple, pushing detail he once prescribed on English wild-

flowers on to larger vistas, ge-

classical, actable literature, Slenderest virgin asphodel,

tion of English literature, a

Oh to be in Soller now that April's train and tram nearly identical St George's Day, Catalonians gave

at Stratford upon Avon would they? Gravitas, courtesy, constant among

mpt manners the darker the face, inward time slow, outer sometime willingness, goodwill, which god's will Shall dignity ever ride horse-proud

Forced back to England, he holed up in a Pimlico room. Lonely, in chronic health, the line had become a circle. His spiritual home became Gordons Wine Bar, off Charing Cross. a painting of Churchill, an m timidation of his demons. He wrote what the barman said: his glossary prefigured by "B"s. booze, hooks, board.

Nicholas Johnson

Denis John Goacher, poet, translator, actor and broadcaster; born London 9 June 1925; married (two sons, ographical and personal. It two daughters; marriage dissolved); retains a dialogue with his no- died London 23 April 1998.

Professor Ralph Raphael

WHEN Ralph Raphael was a Lecturer at Glasgow University his colleagues recall his phenomenal powers of concentration; he would read demanding papers in a noisy room, totally unaware of those around him. One wet day, he was found walking along a long departmental corridors still holding his umbrella over his head. His colleagnes knew then he soon would be Professor Raphael.

His Glasgow lectureship in Organic Chemistry, from 1949 to 1954, proved to he one of the most productive periods of his life, and included such notable achievements as the synthesis of carbohydrates and histamine from acetylenic precursors. But he also had a great sense of fun, and occasionally delivered spoof lectures. One began with serious chemistry and gradually hecame less credible; it culminated in the description of molecules with their absorption spectra in the audible region.

Yet Raphael's excellence triumphed over his lack of reverence, and he was elected as the first Professor of Organic Chemistry at Queen's University, Belfast, in 1954. His stay in Belfast was to prove relatively short, and in 1957 he returned to Glasgow, this time as Regios Professor of Chemistry, and remained there for 15 years. The story is told that his promotion had been so rapid that he was observed to knock at his new office door and wait for his

predecessor to ask him in. However, Raphael fitted the image of dreamy professor only when it suited him. More commonly, he was master of the economical and appropriate phrase. In Glasgow, a manufacturer of expensive instruments had been leading the department a dance over a period of months in relation to the malfunction of a relatively new machine. Patience having passed breaking point, Raphael's letter to the managing director opened: Like the Borgias, Nameless Ltd have experienced

everything and learnt nothing." Ralph Raphael was born on New Year's Day in 1921, and atteoded school at Wesley College, Dublin, and Tottenham, London. By 1941, he bad graduated in Chemistry from Imperial College with first class honours, and run off with the Homann Prize.

The winter of 1940-41 was a tough time to be living in Londoo - air-raids were frequent, and thousands were killed. In the midst of the carnage, Raphael had to prepare for his finals. He was one of five who ohtained a First. (He was narrowly beaten to the top position by Geoffrey Wilkinson, who Raphael: 'The Godfather'

Prize for Chemistry.) There away. In 1973, he moved to then followed postgraduate research, also at Imperial, and he was awarded his PhD in 1943.

His first paper reported work towards the synthesis of acetylenic alcohols related to vitamin A, and seeded a lifelong mterest in acetylene chemistry. From 1943 to 1946, he worked at May and Baker, heading the chemotherapeutic research unit, and working on the chemistry and synthesis of penicillin. An 1CI Fellowship (1946-49)

induced him to return to Imperial. This was a period of great happiness and chemical activity, the latter recognised by his receipt of the Meldola Medal of the Royal Institute of Chemistry in 1948. Basil Weedon (later Vice-Chancellor at Nottingham University) recounted that, following Raphael's marriage to Prudence Gaffikin, he could often be found in the departmental library, surrounded by journals, at the same time minding their baby in a pram. He added that "this does not sound very significant now, but it made quite an impact on the male-dominated community of

During Raphael's secood period in Glasgow, the science hlossomed as before. In 1961, he published a new synthesis of queen bee substance, a compound secreted by the queen to inhibit both ovary development in the worker bees and further queen rearing within the colony. In recognition of this and much other outstanding synthetic work, he was the Tilden Lecturer of the Chemical Society in 1960, and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1962. His wider services to the chemical community in this period were expressed through membership of the Chemistry Committee of the Science Research Council, and in his role as Vice-President (1963-66) and Council Member of the Chemical Society.

It was perhaps inevitable that his talents would lead other institutions to entice him



was later to receive the Nobel Photograph: Godfrey Argent

Cambridge as Professor of Orpanic Chemistry and Head of the Department of Organic and Inorganic Chemistry. Here he carried out more elegant synthetic work. His undergraduate lectures were not only clear, but laced with humour and examples of the relevance of synthesis to society. The humour which he demonstrated in the lecture theatre carried over into his daily life, and particularly to the dinner table -- either when he was an after-dinner speaker, or at home following his wife's superb cuisine. He was an excellent racconeur, and used a measured delivery in his deeply resonant voice to good effect. In a busy life, bridge and appreciation of music were some of his pastimes.

A considerable portion of Raphael's time was inevitably spent oo administration. Not only did he cope with this almost single-handedly, but he sat on sufficient professional appointment committees to become affectionately known as The Godfather".

Following his arrival in Cambridge, his talents were tapped as a member of the Council of the Royal Society and President of the Organic Chemistry Division of the Royal Society of Chemistry. Additionally, he was a Pedler Lecturer of the Chemical Society in 1973, received their Ciba-Geigy Award for Synthetic Chemistry in 1975. and was Davy Medallist of the Royal Society in 1981.

A new experience was to he Fellow of a Cambridge College. At Christ's College he found himself, although a professor in the university, the college's most junior Fellow. As such, he was "Mr Nib", with the duty of pouring after-dinner drinks for other Fellows and their guests. The entry in Christ's Wine-Book for 26 June 1972 reads: "Professor Raphael presented a bottle of Sauternes to celebrate the first occasion he had occupied Mr Nih's chair, and to express his appreciation of the friendly forbearance of the Room."

Dudley Williams

Raiph Alexander Raphael, chemist: born Craydon, Surrey 1 January 1921; Lecturer in Organic Chemistry, Glasgow University 1949-54; Professor of Organic Chemistry, Queen's University, Belfast 1954-57; Regius Professor of Chemistry, Glosgow University 1957-72; FRS 1962; Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge 1972-88; Professor of Organic Chemistry and Head of Department of Organic and Inorganic Chemistry, Cambridge University 1972-88 (Professor Emeritus); CBE 1982; married 1944 Prudence Gaffikin (one son, one daughter); died Combridge 27 April 1998.

nief court

Section 1



Maddox: voice with 'the smoke of the hill country'

Rose Maddox

Colorful Hilibilly Band", the Maddox Brothers and Rose more than lived up to that description.

Attired in orantely embroidered rhinestone costumes, their act was as much visual as musical. Their repertoire encompassed hallads, blues and novelty oumbers, and their music's drive and rhythm anticipated rockabilly. It was punctuated by wild yelps, spoken asides and maniacal laughter.

If the Maddox boys (Cliff,

BILLED as "America's Most Fred, Don, Cal and Henry) gave the music its energy, it was their little sister Rose, the possessor of a voice once described as having "the smoke and substance of the hill country in it", who grabbed the attention.

Born to sharecropping parents in the Appalachian foothills of northern Alabama, Rose was the youngest of seven children. In 1933, following the failure of their cotton crop, the family headed west to California. They worked initially as

fruitpickers. Their move into

forming at a rodeo. Rice's Furniture Store in Modesto agreed to sponsor the band's radio appearances on the condition that they were fronted by a female vocalist and so, at the age of 11. Rose made her professional début. Featuring Cal oo guitar and harmonica and Fred on bass, the band, known as the Alabama Outlaws, eventually expanded to include hrothers Cliff, Don and "Friendly" Henry on, respec-

cal group get paid \$100 for per-

music came after Fred saw a lo-tively, guitar, fiddle and man-became one of the area's biggest dolin. Later still, they were inioed by the steel guitarist Bud Duncan aod, following Cliff's death in 1949, hy a succession of lead guitarists.

Maoaged by their domineering mother Lula, the outfit performed in dance halls and honky tonks up and down the San Joaquio Valley, entertaining the ever-increasing numbers of dispossessed Southerners. Victory in a 1939 Sacramento talent competition gave them greater radio exposure and they

draws. The Second World War caused temporary dissolution and Maddox, her attempts to join the legendary Rob Wills having come to nothing, worked briefly with the bandleaders

Arky Stark and Dave Stogner. From 1946, the reformed group began recording for Four Star Records. Rose's increased confidence and the optimism of the immediate post-war years saw a change in approach and bore fruit in classics like "Philadelphia Lawyer" (a.k.a.

Tonkin", and "Sally Let Your Bangs Hang Down" (1948).

By the mid-Fifties both Rose and the Brothers were signed to Columbia. She had cut her first solo sides in 1953 and, following the band's final session in 1957. concentrated oo a solo career.

She was signed in 1959 to Capitol, where her series of chart entries included "Kissing My Pillow" (1961), and "Sing a Little Soog of Heartache" (1962). She also cut her two finest alhums, The Glorybound died Ashland, Oregon 15 April 1998.

"The Reno Blues"), "Honky Train (1960), and Rose Maddox Sings Bluegrass (1962).

Following her departure from Capitol she continued to perform both alone and with her brothers Henry and Cal. A 1970 album for Starday, Rosie, was followed by minor outings. She spent her final years on Don's Oregon ranch.

Paul Wadev

Roselea Arbana Maddax, singer: born Boaz, Alobarna 15 August 1925; twice married (one son deceased):

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

CRAIGHYLE: Thomas Donaid Mackav Staw. Lord Craigmyle. On 30 April
10 Speacefully at home. Beloved hisbeel of Anthea, much-loved father
of Alison, Kake, Thomas, Madeleine.
Justin and Juseph and grandfather of
nine. Requiem Mass at the Brompton Oratory at 11 am on Monday 11.
May. Family flowers only. Donations
to St Thomas Fund for the Homeless.
31 Cromwell Road, Hove, East
Stisser, BN3 3ES.

van der WOERD: On 2 May 1998.

Peacefully at Clare Hall, Ston Easton, Somerset, Dirk Jan Albert van der
Woerd BDS, Tandarts, Surgeon Commander Royal Dutch Navy, Officer in
de Orde Van Oranie-Massatt, aged 93 word B.J.S. Innuals Navy, Officer in mander Royal Dutch Navy, Officer in de Orde Van Orang-Nassau, aged 93 years, Greaty koved by Dick, Nineke, Nell, Anthony, Robert, Kathleen and his many grandchildren and greatgrandchildren. Funeral at Ston Easton Parish Church on Friday 8 May ton Parish Church on Friday 8 May at 10am followed by cremation at Haycombe Crematonium. Bath. Flowers (or donations in tieu for the uners (or donations in tieu for the uners) of Ston Easton Church) etc. Emery and Son, Funeral Directors, Emery and Son, Funeral Directors. Emery and Son, Funeral Directors, Ashwick, Oukhill, ar Bath, Somerset BA3 5BG, telephone/fax 01749 840350, "God Niz Met Ons".

ments for BIRTHS, MAR. Abdonneements for BIRTHS, PLANA REGIES & DEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazarte Editor. The in-dependent, I Canada Square, Canary dependent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London El4 5DL, telephoned to 077-293 2002 or fased to 0771-293 2002. Charges are 14.50 a line (VAT extra).

Sir John Arnold, former High Court

Birthdays

Sir John Arnold, foliate raigh Cont-Judge, 83; General Sir Jeremy Black-er, former Master-General of the Ordnance, 59; Mr Tony Blair MP. Prime Minister, 45; Mr Thomas Brake MP, 30; Miss Susan Brown, actress, 52; Professor Resemany Cramp, archaeologist, 69; Miss Joanna Dun-ham, actress, 62; Sir Frank Ereaut, former Bailiff of Jersey, 79; Mr Robert Fell, former chief executive, Stock Exchange, 77; Miss Alessan-dra Ferri, ballerina, 35; Mr John Henderson, former Lord-Lieutenant of derson, former Lord-Lieutenant of Berkshire, 78; Mr John Hunton MP, 43; Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh Martell, 86; Mr Freddy Randall, jazz trum-peter, 77; Mr Alan Ross, author and publisher, 76; The Right Rev John Tay-lor, former Bishop of St Albans, 69.

Anniversaries

Births: Lorenzo Lippi (Perlone Zipoli), poet and painter, 1606; Maximilien-François Marie-Isidore de Robespierre, French revolutiongist and psychoanalyst, 1856; Rudolph Valentino (Rodolfo Alfonzo Raffaele Pierre Philibert Guglielmi di Valentina d'Antonguolia), actor, 1895; Stewart Granger, (James Lubianche Stewart), actor, 1913;

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS NOYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh, Honorary Life Member of the Royal Association of British Duby, Fermiter of the Royal Association of British Duby, Fermiter, presents the Prime Philip Assard for 1997 and the present of Merit for Research and Development in the Field of Duby Forming, at Bucking, short Palmer, as Grand Master and Fust Principal, Royal Buck, as Grand Master and Fust Principal, Ringha, attends a Lunch for the Order of the British Engage at The Farmers' Club, Whitehall Court,

George Orson Welles, actor, director and writer, 1915. Deaths: Henry David Thorean, poet and essayist, 1862; Lyman Frank Baum, author of The Wizard of Oz. 1919; Maria Montessori, physician and educa-tionist, 1952; Wilfrid Hyde White, actor, 1991; Marlene Dietrich (Maria Magdalene Dietrich), actress, 1992. On this day: the first postage stamp. the Penny Black, was issued, 1840; Epping Forest was dedicated by Queen Victoria for the perpetual use of the people, 1882; Josef Stalin became leader of the government of the Soviet Union, 1941; Roger Bannister was first to run a mile in under four minutes, 1954; Princess Margaret married Antony Armstrong-Jones in Westminster Abbey, 1960; Spain closed the Gibraltar/Spanish border to all but Spaniards, 1968. To-day is the Feast Day of St Edbert, St Evodius of Antioch, St John Before the Latin Gate and St Petronax.

Lectures

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Masters of Light (1): Joseph Wright of Derby, An Experiment on a Bird in the Air Pump , I post.

Tate Gallery: Jonathan Blackwood "A Surrealist Dialogue; Britain and Europe in the Thirties", 1pm.

London SW1; and, as Patron, attends a reception for the Air League as St. James's Paines. Changing of the Guard The Heusehold Creaty Mounted Regioness women the Ducen's Life Guard at Howe Grazels, Hame Princers Patrice's, Casadien Light (nilmay mount the Oneco's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11-30am, band provided by the Walth Committee, Casadien Standard, Casadien Stand

LAW REPORT: 6 MAY 1998

Judgment in default of defence would be set aside

Anson (T/A Party Planners) v Trump; Court of Appeal (Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Otton and Lord Justice Robert Walker) 7 April 1998

THE COURT of Appeal allowed the appeal of the defeodant against an order the plaintiff. dismissing ber summons to set aside a default judgment which

defendant had paid a deposit of

£10,000. The plaintiff had sub-

sequently rendered her bill for

the balance of £26,497.32, mak-

ing a total of about £36,500.

had been entered against her. The plaintiff was in the business of organising parties for the rich and famous. The defendant, a prominent international businesswoman and socialite, had approached the plaintiff, who had agreed to organise a party which involved hiring an exclusive hotel and restaurant over a weekend. The

the party would cost a little under £25.000 or, alternatively, that the total hill was excessive. Michael Roberts (McNulty & Co. Hants) for the defendant; Andrew Burns (Radcliffe Crossman Block) for Lord Justice Otton said that the appeal was concerned pri-

The defendant asserted that

the agreement had been that

marily with procedural matters. In May 1996 the plaintiff had been allowed to amend her statement of claim by substituting a new statement of claim. At the same time it had been ordered that the defence should be struck out, and that a new defence should be served within 21 days of service of the amended statement of claim.

The amended statement of claim had been duly served in June 1996, but no defence had vice of a defence had expired, beeo served within the 21-day a judgment thereafter signed by into it a reasonable time be-

dant's solicitors that they intended to enter judgment for the original sum claimed on 22 November, pursuant to Order 19 rule 2 of the Rules of the Supreme Court. They had done so shortly after the opening of the court offices. On the same morning, shortly before the judgment had been signed, the defeodant's solicitors had faxed a defence to the

plaintiff's solicitors. The first issue on the appeal was whether a default judgment could be entered under Order 19 rule 2 where a defence had been served outside the 21-day time limit but prior

to the entry of judgment. The judge had correctly interpreted the rule to mean that once a time limit for ser-

licitors had warned the defen- judgment, and that a defence fax in the fax machine, and a served after expiry but before judgment, although oot a nuility, had been irregularly served. That reading of the rule would cause no hardship to defendants, since it would be open to them to apply for leave to serve late or to apply to have judgment set aside if a plaintiff had known full well that there was a defence, albeit an irregular one.

The second issue concerned the way in which pleadings faxed to the other side were to be treated. Order 65 rule 5 provided for service of documents by far in accordance with paragraph (2B), ie where it was effected by transmission to the husiness address of a solicitor. The judge had takeo the view that in order to make the rule work, there must be implied

time limit. The plaintiff's so- the plaintiff was a regular tween the actual arrival of the in the office who knew about the matter in question. There was, however, no

scope within the rules to import a gloss of reasonableness or reasocable lapse of time. "Transmission" meant the transmission process from the moment that the document was despatched to a time when the complete document had been received io to the recipient's fax equipment.

The third issue concerned the merits of the defence. The court had decided that it should consider afresh the exercise of the discretion to set aside the judgment, and had concluded that the defendant should be given the opportunity to defend the claim as to

the outstanding halance. Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

INDEPENDEN

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When 'defeat' is a victory for peace

THERE HAS BEEN a clear pattern in recent years: only those who do not wish in change too much are in a position eventually to deliver revo-

The Oslo accords that seemed to pave the way for peace in the Middle East were agreed by Yitzhak Rabin, an Israeli prime minister who had never been known for dovishness. His assassination removed, in the short term at least, the possibility of change: Shimon Peres, more obviously committed to a peaceful solution, could not carry the country with him in the way that Mr Rabin had briefly seemed able to do. In Northern Ireland. the traditional intransigence of Gerry Adams and of David Trimble has seemed in previous years in be a problem. More abviously, however, it has recently come to seem a bonus, in the sense that neither of them can easily be portrayed as a sell-out.

Both in Oslo and in the case of earlier Middle East talks - most notahly the Camp David agreement, hrokered by the United States between Israel and Egypt -- the deal came only after it seemed certain that it would founder. As in Belfast in the days before the Good Friday agreement, this was mure than just brinkmanship. Both sides cared passionately about what they thought they might lose. Both sides knew that it would be almost impossible to change the terms, after the deal had been struck.

Theoretically, one could make the same case with the Israeli-Palestinian indirect talks in London this week -- where Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, shuttled between two London hotels. Tony Blair said that there was neither breakthrough nor breakdown. Mrs Albright announced that the United States is ready to invite the participants for further meetings in Washington next week, if further progress is made. For the moment, however, the chances of an outbreak of sanity look woefully slim. None of the participants has staked their political life on the outcome.

The Ulster deadline set by the US mediator George Mitchell was, on the face of it, quite artificial. In theory, it did not matter a jot whether a peace deal was agreed before the Easter weekend or a few days or weeks or later. In practice, however, the setting of an unmissable deadline was ·crucial. All parties at Stormont, whatever their differences on politics, shared the view that this was their last chance. If they did not manage to hammer something out through the long night (and then another night, and then another), then everything else would be lost, for the foreseeable future.

In London this week, by contrast, there has been a strong sense of merely walking through the part. The Israeli leader, Benjamin Netanyahu, who has repeatedly made clear his contempt for the spirit of the Oslo accords, may eventually come to accept the inevitability of change. For the moment, however, he still seems locked into the positions held by both sides in Northern Ireland just a few years ago, where any hackdown was seen as a defeat, not as a potential victory for both sides.

Mr Netanyahu talked yesterday of the need to "close all the gaps" and of "resolving outstanding issues". But he also emphasised "a very simple point: we cannot compromise on Israel's security". This includes a hlunt refusal to give up 13 per cent of the West Bank, as proposed by the Americans, as part of the redeployment agreed in the Oslo accords.

Even the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat -- who had more reason than most to be pessimistic - appeared almost upbeat. He noted "some progress", and said that "time is needed in order to achieve an agreement". Following his 50-minute meeting with Mr Blair at Downing Street, Mr Arafat rejected the suggestion that the talks had failed,

Despite attempts to put a hrave face on the progress of the talks there seems, however, little chance of real change while Mr Netanyahu is so obviously wedded to the win-or-lose scenario - for his own domestic electoral reasons. Hawkishness is good for votes. And yet, as Cyril Ramaphosa, senior negotiator in South Africa's transition from apartheid, emphasised on a visit to Northern Ireland last week, agreements only become possihle when both sides recognise that they must lose something, in order to win. It is a message Mr Arafat has long since learnt - even while the radical pressures on him continue. If Mr Netanyahu fails to learn that hasic lesson, then Israelis and Palestinians alike will have little reason to remember him fondly. What seems like a retreat can easily come to seem an advance. Standing firm, meanwhile, can come to seem the greatest defeat of all.

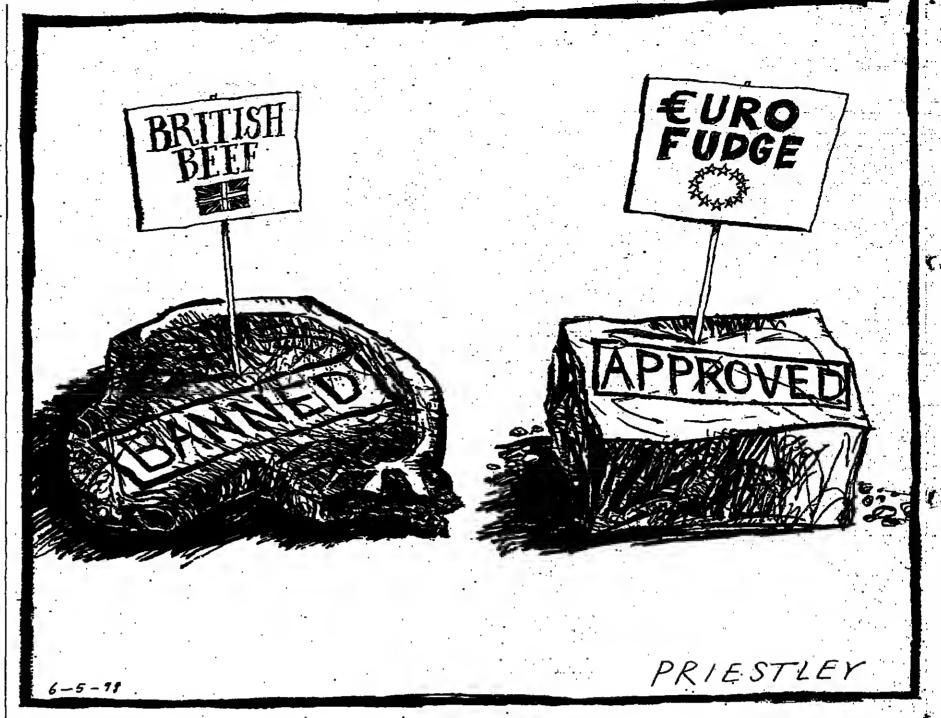
C4: back to new ways

ACCORDING TO the Independent Television Commission, some of Channel 4's recent output has been lacking the vital quality of innovation. This is a serious charge

When Channel 4 was launched in 1982, it was told to innovate and experiment and to devote a "suitable proportion" of programming to tastes and interests not catered for by ITV. It took its remit seriously. Channel 4 has changed British television for the better. Brookside challenges taboos routinely. Film On Four has boosted the British film industry with works such as Shallow Grave and Trainspotting. The Big Breakfast was experimental, if nothing else. We were given the surreal comedy of Father Ted. All this is good, indeed excellent, televising. So what is Channel 4 dning wrong?

The ITC believes Channel 4 may have strayed from its remit recently in its factual broadcasting. In particular, there has been insufficient attention paid to "adult education", which is dominated by gardening, cookery and pets. Channel 4 News, excellent though it is, has not witnessed very much innovation recently. Channel 4 needs to address these weaknesses and there are encouraging signs that its new boss, Michael Jackson, knows this.

Mr Jackson, when he was with the BBC, suggested that the Channel 4's courtship of a young audience had gone too far and threatened to overshadow its achievements in documentaries, drama, and the arts. He asked: "Am I alone in thinking that the pursuit of demographics - in particular young, lager-drinking, upwardly mobile men - has led to a sapping of Channel 4's originality? Has consumerism eroded the spirit of curiosity?" The ITC report suggests that he was not on his own. Thanks to the phasingout of the levy paid to the ITV companies, Mr Jackson is now able to make the most of the station's success in pulling in advertising. The mild rebuke of the ITC gives him all the excuse he needs to follow his instincts.



Rights and religions

Sir: We welcome the Government's determination to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into British law through the Human Rights Bill, now moving into its committee stage in the House of Commons. The Human Rights Act will be a keystone in creating a more just and equitable society.

We believe that faith communities and their associated organisations should respond warmly to legislation which makes it easier for United Kingdom citizens to protect their basie human rights. While we recognise some of the anxietics expressed by other Christians regarding the Bill's implications, sound legal opinion and the experience of churches in Europe indicate that Article 9, dealing with religious freedom, provides clear and proper protection. Such fears are therefore misolaced. We deplore attempts by some Christians to weaken the Bill through exemptiontype amendments. We encourage Her Majesty's Government to reject devices which surround the Bill with exclusions, defences and opt-outs. Such exemptions would be inconsistent with its manifesto commitment to hring rights home".

We affirm the values represented by the Human Rights Bill. As such they challenge our religious institutions in the way they conduct themselves as human communities. Those who oppose the full incorporation of the European Convention, by challenging the inclusion of churches and other religious bodies within the definition of public authority", are in danger of creating legislation which is less rather than more satisfactory to the churches. Narrow and misguided institutional self-interest should give way to an embrace of those rights and values which will enhance the common good. BEN BRADSHAW MP

(Exeter, Lab) **CHRIS BRYANT** Christian Socialist Movement NADIR DINSHAW JOHN GIBSON Catholics for a Changing Church +JOHN GUILDFORD (The Right Rev John Gladwin, Bishop of Guildford) The Most Rev RICHARD

LETTERS

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Bishop of Edinburgh HELENA KENNEDY (Baroness Kennedy of the Shaws) RICHARD KIRKER Lesbian and Gay Christian Movemera Canon MARTYN PERCY. DAVID McCLEAN The Lincoln Theological Institute MARTIN PENDERGAST Christians for Human Rights The Right Rev PETER SELBY Bishop of Worcester VALERIE STROUD We Are Church (UK) **ELIZABETH STUART** Professor of Theology, Winchester +ROWAN MONMOUTH (The Right Rev Rowan Williams, Bishop of Monmouth) London E9

Eurobank row

Sir. The behaviour of the French government in forcing the splitting of the presidency of the European Central Bank raises grave questions about the true motives of the French partictoation in the European construction. France's pursuit of hollow grandeur at the expense of reason and noblesse d'esprit could have hardly come at a worse time.

However, now is not the time to express naive shock and jeer from the sidelines at Euro-politics. Nor can we of the European Central Bank. allow a 15-nation project to become a statist and interventionist model designed by the French for them to use as an extension of their own national power.

within the EU that the UK can wrestle with French influence and, together with other countries, try to alarm us all. prevent such acts of egocentrism. **OLIVER CARDIGAN** London W14

head of the European Central Bank, and everyone else doesn't. The French

out the EU, and everyone else doesn't. Everyone else gets their way. Maybe I'm missing something here, but couldn't everyone else simply have told the French where they get off? RICHARD BARTLE Colchester, Essex

Sir: Giles Radice claims (Comment, 4 May), that "it could be to our lasting national disadvantage to put off the decision to join the euro too. long". In fact it would be to our lasting national advantage to make the decision now not to join.

History shows that the artificial union of disparate nation states always ends in bloodshed. And I fear for the future of our grandchildren. The loss of sovereignty by absorption in to a "country called Europe", the inevitable eventual consequence of our membership of EMU, would spell the end of our considerable influence in the world - an influence which has been a force for good over many centuries. It would also spell the end of our prosperity, hard-won as an independent nation.

Harmonisation, the huzz-word of the EU, is all about agreement and compatibility, and yet France and Germany, the two countries which intend to rule Europe, cannot agree on the simple issue of the chairmanship GERRY HANSON

Iver Heath, Buckinghamshire

Sir: The European Parliamentary Elections Bill, now to be considered It is only by playing a full part in committee by the Lords, contains a profound change in our constitutional arrangements which ought to

For the first time in British history, the only choice we (excluding the Northern Irish) shall have at the forthcoming Euro-election will be to Sir. The French want their man to be support one party or another. Once we have made that choice, seats will be awarded to the parties within elecget their way. The British want their toral regions in proportion to votes beef and chocolate to be sold through- gained, and they will be filled by par- House of Commons

ty nominees in an order selected by

der to the party, and not on the service they render their constituents. Is this what we really want? SIMON GAZELEY

Real nappies

Sir. I have just read Vanya Body's let- sure we could get away with it. ter (2 May) sitting in my sunny gar-den, where a line of snow-white nappies flap in the breeze, and would like to encourage her to resist peer

the parties. So 84 out of the 87 Unit-

ed Kingdom MEPs will depend for

their position on the service they ren-

pressure and try "real" nappies. I started to use them four and a half years ago, when my second child was born, and my youngest is, I trust, about to hid them farewell. My original sets of nappies are still going (and white), and I reckon I have saved mountains of landfill, considerable sums of money and a great deal of muscle power, not lugging disposables bome from the shops.

The secret is to huild the soaking and washing into the schedule. Invest in a bucket with a lid, a pair of designated rubber gloves and a sense of humour for the occasional leak. Then when Vanya Body's adolescent accuses her of contributing to toxic landfill, she can say (smugly) "But I didn't." CHARLOTTE OBOLENSKY Bristol

Box of tricks

Sir: Pandora (The Box, 28 April), suggests that I resorted to indecipherable techno-speech in a debate in the Commons. The question you quote, whilst certainly technical, was in fact a written question, and had to be in that form to get a relevant answer. I wouldn't dream of speaking in such jargon - not a single MP would understand me. MATTHEW TAYLOR MP (Truro and St Austell, Lib Dem)

Men, sex and football

Sir. Annabel Ferriman is yet another in a long line of women writers who agonise over why men commit adultery or speculate why some famous person is caught with a prostitute "Why's he a dirty Harry?", 2 May). She quotes a (woman) psychologist who has "discovered the reasons".

It really is very simple. Sperms and eggs. Men have lots of the former and our unsocialised imperative is to spread them about. With the dominant and most desirable males, the imperative is even stronger and whatever men may tell women as we gaze deeply into your eyes, even those with a below-average sex drive would be doing it all the time, if we were

There is one area in which men and women do indeed confuse each other. Women find it difficult to be lieve that men genuinely do not really think they are doing anything wrong. What we do not understand is why men always get the blame and never all the women who are voluntarily doing it with us. TIMOTHY St ATHER London SW13

Sir: With reference to your leading article "Send her off and let me watch" the football!" (5 May). I appear to be one of the few men in England determined to avoid seeing any of the World Cup; a lecture on the history of plywood would be more interesting. Instead, I intend to spend June and July shopping in London's West End, enjoying candle-lit dinners, sipping champagne in exclusive nightclubs, staying in five-star hotels - and having sex. Please feel free to pass on my address and telephone number to any disgruntled wives or girlfriends of football fans who would like to join me. JAMES MCANDREW

Gill's Stations

Sir: There is already a memorial in Westminster Cathedral and place of prayer for all victims of any kind of ahuse (Letters, 5 May). It is called the Twelfth Station of the Cross. LAWRENCE SCOON Workington, Cumbria

What your name means – if it sounds funny and made up



TODAY I am glad to welcome back Dr Vernon Monicker, the man who knows more about the origin of names than anyone. He's here today in answer your queries about where your name comes from, nr where someone else's name comes from, if your name is too boring to ask questions about. All yours, Vernou !

Netanyahu's a funny sort of name, isn't it? It sounds sort of silly and made up, doesn't

Dr Vernnn Mnnicker writes: Yes, it does,

doesn't it? On the other hand, Yasser Arafat sounds equally silly and sort of made up, doesn't it? Dr Vernon Municker writes: Yes, it does, doesn't it? Look, I don't want to complain, but could we have something a little less topical and controversial, please?

Garibaldi's a funny sort of name, isn't it? It

sounds sort of silly and made up, doesn't it? Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Yes, it does, doesn't it? Actually, could we have something a little MORE inpical, please? Mandelson is a funny son of name, isn't it? Looks sort of made up, really, doesn't it? Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Not at all Mandelson is another name like Mendelssohn,

or Thomson. Mendelssohn means "son of Mendel" and Thomson means "son of Thomas" So Mandelson means "son of Mandel". does it?

Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Er, yes, I suppose so. Yes, definitely. I have just looked up "Mandel" in a German dictionary and in German it means either an "almond" or a "tonsil". So you think that Mandelson means either "Almondson" or

"Tonsilson", do you? Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Look, I'm get-means that the name of the current captain

ting fed up being asked in explain names I'm not sure about. Hasn't anyone got any names I can easily explain?

Dapline du Maurier is a a funny sort of name. isn't u? It sounds sort of silly and made up, doesn't it?

Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Yes, it does, doesn't it? Of course, many well-known names in England have a foreign origin, but once we get used in them they no longer sound exotic. One thinks of Bronte and de Glanville and Portillo and Dallaglio ... Don't evade the subject. You don't know the

origin of Dapime du Maurier's name, do you? Dr Vernnn Monicker writes: Of course I do. But before we leave the subject, you might be interested to know that in Italian "aglio" means "garlie".

Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Well, that

of the English rugby team -. Dallaglio -means, in Italian, "from the garlic" or "of the garlic".

Fascinating. So what does Daphne du Maurier's name come from?

Dr Vernon Monicker writes: From the word "daphne". This refers to a kind of flowering shruh known - coincidentally - as a daphne. It comes via Latin from the Greek word "daphne", meaning "laurel". So it's interesting to know that Daphne du Maurier and Stan Laurel had the same name! What's interesting about it?
Dr Vernon Minnicker writes: Nothing, Sor-

So, what does du Maurier mean, Dr Vernon Know-all? Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Well, obviously

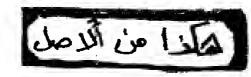
"maurier" is a French word referring to a profession like "patissier" or "epicier"... Yes, but what profession?

Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Well, obviously, someone who deals with "maures". Which are ...?

Dr Vernnn Monicker writes: Well, accordng to the dictionary, a "maure" is a "Moor". Not the kind of moors which the people of Bradford and Leeds always claim are five minutes walk from the city centre, but the kind of Moors that invaded Spain, and of whom Othello was an example. So what kind of profession would work exclusively with "Moors", then, eh?

Dr Vernnn Mnnicker writes: I don't know. Oh, why won't someone please please PLEASE ask me a name I can explain, like Hempleman-Adams? What does the name Hempleman-Adams

come from? I'm sorry - that's all we have time for this week. Dr Vernon Monicker will be back again soon!



Patients no longer – we are all customers now



HAMSIH McRAE

THE FUTURE OF DRUGS

IT HAS been an extraordinary few days in the drug world: first, the launch in America of Viagra, the small blue diamond-shaped pill which treats impotency, and now the possihility of a drug, or rather combination of two drugs, which might cure cancer by switching off the blood supply to tumours.

They represent two ends of the pharmaceutical spectrum. One is a drug with obvious consumer appeal - just the sort of market-driven product that people flock to buy and the big commercial drug companies love to create. The other represents our more traditional idea of the purpose of medicine: the thing you take to cure you of a grave illness. If it works, and there are inevitably considerable doubts, it will rank alongside vaccination or the first antibiotics as one of the giant breakthroughs in medicine.

It therefore illustrates a tension, which will become more evident, between the pressure on the giant pharmaceutical companies to produce drugs that meet consumer demand (for that is how they will make the most money for their shareholders) and the wider de- procedures, some helieving that ultra-strinmand from humankind to find drugs that treat the mortal diseases.

Of course there is no hard and fast line between the two; any drug that can treat cancer successfully will have enormous commercial demand. But there is a chasm between, on the one hand, mood-changing drugs like Valium (which damps you down) or Prozac (which cheers you up), hoth of which have been great commercial successes, and on the other, treatments for diseases like malaria, which will be less profitable because they occur largely in poor countries.

Viagra is towards the Prozac end of the scale. There is tremendous demand for it for obvious reasons, but oo purely medical grounds the case for its use is less compelling. Though it treats a distressing condition, some people might think of it almost as a recreational drug. As a result the Health Mainrefusing to fund its use. The control of the cost of private sector health care in the US is largely sub-contracted by employers to the HMOs, who therefore carry out a similar gatekeeping function as the NHS does in the UK. Presumably the NHS will take also a similarly sceptical view of its medical value when the product becomes available here.

Is it unfair to suggest that the drug companies are only interested in developing drugs that make profits? Maybe a little, but the hard fact remains that the balance of money spent on research is swinging away from the educational establishments and towards the giant drug companies. The financial markets recognise and indeed demand the focus on profits that the pharmaceutical giants deliver and have rerated their shares accordingly. Pharmaceuticals account for about 12 per cent of the value of the top 100 shares in London, give or take the odd percentage point, agra is a good example. Great name that: a about as high as they have ever been. Mean-combination of virile and Niagara.

while similar pressures are mounting on ed-ucational establishments, for as government funds are restricted they have to get spoosorship from commerce to help fund their re-

This shift of the supply of research from educational establishment to commercial company has been mirrored on the demand side by a shift in people's expectations of health care. In the old days drugs were things doctors prescribed to make you better: the consumer took what he or she was told to do. Now, gradually, there has been a shift, with people taking a much greater responsibility for their own health and expecting to have much more say in how they are treated. We are becoming customers rather than patients.

There is one enormously positive side of this: the emphasis on lifestyle as a determinant of health. You see this in all sorts of ways - the decline in smoking, the increasing proportion of people taking regular exercise, the efforts to improve diet and so on. The notion that the fastest way to improve the health of the nation is to encourage a shift in lifestyle is now accepted by the Government, hence the nannyish tone of both this one and its pre-

But there is also a less positive aspect. We will not always be the best judges of what is good for us. As the balance of power shifts from producer to consumer, from doctor to patient, some of us will end up living healthier lifestyles, but some will use the new freedom to take drugs that don't make us better but simply make us feel better - for a while.

That freedom will grow. It will grow because we are moving towards a global market for prescription drugs. At the moment what is available and not available is still controlled by national governments. But these governments have different standards: what vailable one country is not available in another. Countries have different authorisation gent testing is occessary before a drug is made geogrally available, others believing that

> We are moving towards a global market for prescription drugs

the balance of advantage is in getting the drug to the consumer as quickly as is reasonably possible. Knowledge about drugs' properties and potential will become universally available through the Internet; drugs are light and easy to transport; and credit cards already pro-

At the moment we have a white market in prescription drugs and a black market in illegal ones. Expect a grey market to grow in drugs that are legal and available in some places but not in others. Expect consumers everywhere to regard themselves as the people who have the right to make these decisions, not the politicians in the country in which they happen to reside.

In the next months we are going to see some interesting tests. People here will want to test drive Viagra before it is commercially available. And people everywhere will be prepared to risk taking the cancer drugs long before they have gone through the oormal screening procedures - and these are druss which up to oow have not been tested on humans, only mice.

Above all, marketing is going to become a vital component in drug development. Vi-

Could government take on the task of making happy families?



SUZANNE MOORE

RELATIVE **VALUES**

YOU maybe unaware of the fact but yesterday was National Parenting Day. I was so unaware of it that I carried on as pormal. I went to work, my kids weot to school, I did five minutes of quality single parenting ("No, you cannot watch Scream 2") and took the cat to the vet to insure that she could no longer go around irresponsibly giving hirth to kittens that she does not seem interested in communicating with in any way whatsoever.

No one sent me a card congratulating me oo my parenting skills, but I expect this is because National Parenting Day is a new invention. It comes as all new inventions must, from the think -tank still unfortunately known as Demos. They have patented the idea in an effort to get away from the rather sectarian Mother's Day and Father's day and also to publicise their latest pamphlet, Relative Values: Support for relationships and parenting, written by Ed Straw, brother of Jack.

The report could be summarised by one of Straw's basic observations: "Happiness is good economics." Unhappiness costs government money. The fall-out from divorce, dysfunction and family breakdown is costly in terms of benefits, crime rates, drug and alcohol dependency. Two questions inevitably follow. What should happier? And is the role of goverament to insure personal happiness? Clearly Ed Straw thinks that the answer to the second question is yes, arguing for a national programme of investment in education and support for relationships and parenting.

Strong and committed relationships with parents equipped to parent is the ideal. Fine. Indeed many of the things that Straw is arguing for counselling programmes and agencies to provide help with step-families, redundancy and stress-related illnesses, for instance - already exist in a somewhat shamholic form. The novelty of Straw's idea is should be drawn together into



an institution much like the NHS called, he suggests, The National Relationship and Parenting Service. Just as fifty years ago the nation's health became a matter of public policy so, he argues, the same vision and drive is needed to deal with our emotional life.

Apart from this dreadful name - I suggest the word relationship be banned from public discourse altogether -- this smacks of Big Brother-style intrusion into people's private lives. Most people may want support when things go wrong but they don't want to be told that the populace can be counselled into compliance. If we are aware of the economic cost of family breakdown then we must surely also be aware of the economic causes. Family life has changed, rather than broken down, as women bave entered the work-place; and no amount of "relationship education" will stem the repercussions of this.

Straw is right to suggest that we know already what works. We know for instance that preventioo is better than care when it comes to crime; we know that abuse leads to abuse, that cycles of deprivation can

should incorporate realistic cases of domestic crisis and positive examples of families who work through their problems successfully. Obviously only someone who never watches soaps would make such a proposal. Besides the fact that soaps are popular dramas rather than broadcasts oo behalf of The Relationship Party, soaps deal with family breakdown day in and day out.

Most of the families in Ramsay Street, Brookside Close and Albert Square have experienced hreakdown, reconciliation, death, destruction, drug prob-

tal agency. How far politicians can incorporate the language of emotion that supposedly swept the country after Diana's death into public policy pronouncements is debatable. Obviously all governments

engage in a certain amount of social engineering and most of us support this, whether it is drink-drive campaigns or sex education in schools. Yet despite a willingness to be more open about what causes problems, both personally and politically, for society, there is still a vast avoidance of certain crucial issues.

We are still "in denial" about some our difficulties. While the socialisation or lack of it of young meo has been recently acknowledged as a fundamental problem - a case femioists have made for years - it has oow become apparent even to government that unless masculine identity can be reconstructed and adaptive it becomes destructive. Likewise is no good when fathers refuse to do it or work such long hours that they physically cannot.

So let me just share something with you: huzzwords will not change people's reality. If politicians want to support "parenting", let them leave it to us choose to be counselled or not. Instead, they can just give us parental sick leave, shorter hours, tax hreaks and decent nurseries. That's the kind of family therapy we re-

People may want support when things go wrong, but they don't want to be told how to do things in the first place, especially not by government

how to do things in the first place, especially not by a government body. Demos, who has never shied away from the concept of social engineering, maintains that cone of Straw's proposals are to be seen as moral instruction but as simply educational

This seems rather a fudge because parts of this government would clearly like to promote family values, while others are wary of what happened to the Tories' Back to Basics campaign. While Straw uses the phrase "holistic government" as though the role of the state was somebow to unite us body and soul in some brave new world where every day is that all these various agencies National Parenting Day, many will halk at the implication

and need to he stopped. There already exists a body of knowledge and skills about how to make relationships more fulfilling. Some of it exists in the professional world of therapy, counselling and social work. The rest of it exists in the informal and feminised world of popular culture, which continually instructs us on how to have better sex, better kitchens, bet-

ter children. As we have come to expect from Demos publications, the pamphlet is far better at offering novel but traditional political solutions, such as the setting up of a new government agency, than it is at dealing with the actual culture in which we live. Straw makes the bizarre suggestion that soap operas

demand renationalisation and

buge taxes on the rich. I shall

fume about dumping loyal old

socialists. What fun I shall have

upbraiding them for selling the

working man down the River

Thames. How I shall enjoy

asking why they are privatising

the Underground. "Even

Looking at the photos of my

three Labour candidates I sus-

pect Madge and Josie, who look

as though they've been lifelong

Labour workers since Attlee's

day, may privately agree with

me. David, however, looks the

very model of Derek Draper

cloning and will probably be

nervous as his answers will, no

doubt, be electronically moni-

tored by Mandelson at Mill-

ing those trite phrases - "I'll be

there on the day". "I'll think

about it", "I'll decide when I get

there" - that I beard so often

when the voter wanted to dan-

gle me on his line. And bow,

best of all, I shall say that my

gammy leg means that at the

very least I'll need a Labour car

to get me to the polls. "Oh and

can I just pop into the betting

Theo I suppose I'll vote

The writer was MP for Brigg and

Cleethorpes from 1979 to 1997.

shop on the way?"

Tory as usual.

How I look forward to us-

Thatcher never did that," l

shall scream.

scale that Straw could only dream about. No one in Neighbours for instance has sex without hours of discussion before hand. Are they old enough? Are they committed? Have they sorted out the sexually transmitted disease aspect? Do their parents know? The point, then, is that

lems and HIV education on a

much of what Straw would like to happen is already bappening but it is not co-ordinated or legislated for by any governmen-

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How I intend to bait the local party canvassers



BROWN ON GETTING HIS OWN BACK

FOR THE past year I have been living in the real world. After 18 years of gleaning informatioo about political and economic affairs from cosy chats with prime ministers, chancellors and assorted secretaries of states at lunches, receptions, tea room tête-a-têtes and smoking room huddles I am reduced to reading newspapers and watching occasional television.

Being oow a normal nobody joining the massed millions of the silent majority I have no opportunity of venting my spleen if I hear or read something that begs a question. In the past I could rant and rave to a government minister either m private, or if he really annoyed me, in the chamber of the House of Commons. If that did not work I could use the full pomposity of being a member of a select committee and take on a hapless foreign secretary or permanent secretary to ask my daft question or peddle my latest hobby horse. Then I could issue a press release demanding his resignation.

Now, I can only do what everyone else does who has no influence on anything: shout at the TV; grumble at breakfast time when the gas or phone bills spoil the day, argue with friends at the dinner table or ring the latest telly poil in the Sun. But hey! Suddenly I receive

a poll card for the London elections. A deluge of Labour party leaflets solicit my vote for "Madge, Josie and David" in marginal Churchill Ward in Westminster to "Get London Oh bliss it is to be on the other side of the fence. Never

in my life have I been canvassed. For every election since I was old enough to vote I have been a committed party worker, candidate or MP out on the stump in all weathers canvassing for votes in gruesome council blocks where, on occasions, I was lucky to escape with my For 18 years, every time I

knocked on a door, I waited nervously for the pitbull to be restrained before 15 stone of tattooed brawn confronted me. saw my blue rosette and let forth in ripe Angle Sexon how I, Thatcher and Major had created every ill known to man.

At every election, either on my own behalf or in support of a party worker standing for council, I have had to defend the indefensible, hlame world recessions, and everyone and everything else except the Tories and myself in order to secure a wretched vote.

Not this time. Having moved to London permanently I am now going to put to good use all the schemfor a few brief weeks, they, the electors, have the upper hand. My first opportunity came

last Wednesday night. My flat buzzer rang. Down the entry phooe (how I hated those diabolical inventions when I canvassed) a dreoched young city slicker shouts for all the yobbos in the street to hear that he is my Conservative candidate.

So excited am I that I invite him in and offer coffee or gin and tonic. This is the first time

alty gets the better of me as I see the foot-weary nedraggled wretch. No one knows better than I how awful it is for a party foot soldier to be at the mercy of the voter on his home ground. I confess my past, tell him he

Sadly my innate tribal loy-

has my vote and he trots away happy. I rememher how just one pleasant promise of support during a hapless wet three hours on the slog can make up

I cannot wait for either Madge, Josie or David to solicit me for New Labour. I shall hide my photo with Margaret Thatcher on her 70th birthday

use to let politicians know that got one from the Tories."

vassed. I want to let off one year of pent-up steam as he suddenly becomes the embodiment of and wrongs of the Conservative Party. I want to detain him as I have been on hundreds of octake him to canvas an endless forbidding street.

I delight in brandishing the Labour leaflet and say, as was ing lines and lies voters rightly said to me so often, "I haven't drag principal boy Tony" and

in my life I have been can- for 50 abusive variations of "anyone hut you".

my photo with Margaret open with, "We only see you at

I cannot wait for either

Madge, Josie or David to solicit everything to do with the rights me for New Labour. I shall hide Thatcher oo her 70th birthday, invite them in, waste their time casions, delaying the time it will and pretend to be life-long old Labour. How I shall love to election time." I shall berate them with "this Thatcher in

French billionaire becomes Christie's biggest shareholder

By Nigel Cope Associate City Editor

A BILLIONAIRE investor bas emerged as the largest shareholder in Christie's International, the auction house which called off discussions about a £500m takeover earlier this year.

Christie's announced yesterday that Francois Pinault, one of France's richest businessmen, had acquired a 29 per cent stake in the business. The shareholding was acquired from Joe Lewis, the Bahamasbased investor who was a key member of the consortium of wealthy individuals which failed with a takeover approach to Christie's in January.

Christie'a said it did not know if the share purchase was hostile and it had only been informed of the deal when it had been completed. The company has oot yet met Mr Pinault, who controls the £11bo Pinault-Printemps-Redoute retail empire.

The price of the transaction was not disclosed as it was conducted off-market. However, analysts said the price might have

been at a premium to the market price. which closed 4p higher at 296p yesterday. That would put a price tag of £140m on the 29 per cent stake and value Christie's at £480m.

The off-market transaction raised eyebrows in the City as the purchase of such a large shareholding at an undisclosed price could lead to a false market in the shares.

Sources close to Mr Pinault suggest that he is a long-term investor who would oot necessarily have acquired the shareholding as a prelude to a full scale bid. It is

thought he might have bought the stake anticipating a continued recovery in the art

Mr Pinault knows the Christie's busioess well. As one of France's foremost art collectors he is a regular Christie's customer with preferences for modern art. He also

has an impressive collection of sculptures Mr Pinault has struck the Christie's deal using Artemis, a private company be cootrois. Through Artemis be also owns Chateau Latour, one of the top French wine houses, which he acquired for Fr690m

Sterling fell 3 pfennigs to

DM2.94, while its index against a range of currencies fell by 0.8

to 1045. The pound has re-

turned to its lowest levels for

Alisoo Cottrell, chief ecoo-

omist at Paine Webber, pre-

dicted the markets would focus on the likely path of interest

rates and the economic slow-

down in the UK, weakening the

pound. "Every growl from Tiet-

meyer will mean more relief for UK exporters," she said.

interpretations about the implications of the row over the

ECB for the future of the

single currency. Some were

pessimistic, saying a pattern of

political interference had been

set and predicting its safe-

haven status would send the

Julian Jessop of Nikko

Europe said: "The market

reaction has been quite muted

so far, but this is the lull before

Others said the wrangling

over the ECB presidency had

been fully expected and finan-

cial markets would now focus

on economic and monetary

union at Salomon Smith

Barney, said the new bank's 17-

member governing council

would turn oul to be very tough

in practice. "There is no chance

of that group going off on

some mad policy spree just

because Duisenherg has only

been appointed for four years

He also played down fears

that the Euro-X council of

finance ministers would try to

interfere in the new central

hank's policies. Mr Bishop

predicted it would not step in

until it faced its first economic

realise that being on the out-

side really matters," he said.

That is when the UK will

rather than eight," he said.

Graham Bishop, an expert

on its future operations.

pound higher again.

the storm."

But analysts had different

more than two mooths.

(£71m) in 1993. His US business interests include a stake in well known brands like Samsonite luggage and 100 per cent ownership of Vail, the Colorado ski resort.

Mr Pinault, 62, started out in business in 1963 with a timber company. He now has a cootrolling stake in Pinault-Printemps-Redoute, France's largest retailer which has a stock market value of

He said yesterday: "I am delighted to have this opportunity to acquire this a substantial interest in Christie's. I have long

been an admirer of its unique qualities and I believe that there is significant potential for its business and valuable expertise as the trade in works of art continues to grow

around the world."
In February Christie's reported a 20 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £40.6 before exceptional items in 1997, with auction sales up 20 per cent. Founded in 1766, it overtook its arch-rival, Sotheby's, as the world's higgest seller of fine art last year, cont ducting auctions with a total value of

Let's get bosses tell **Beckett**

By Michael Harrison

AFTER the euro-fudge of Brussels the bandwagon moved to Birmingham yesterday, where Midlands businessmen gathered at the NEC to find out terday, anticipating an interest what the single currency would mean for British industry.

The 200 delegates who turned up to bear Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, launch the first in a series of government seminars did not attach much importance to whether a 63-year-old Dutchman would still be running the European central bank in four or eight years time.

They were much more interested in what the euro would mean for their bottom line, even though the pound may not join until well into the next millennium. Mrs Beckett warned her audience that it was "dangerous and complacent" to believe they needed to take no action yet. But she was preaching to the converted.

Richard Brucciani, chairman of PAL International, a manufacturer of chefs' hats based in Oadby, Leicestershire, employing 155 people, is already aware of the dangers. His company will be reliant upon countries in the euro zone for nearly

"The single currency is a threat that we have to turn into an opportunity," he says. "The moment it arrives we will have to start publishing price lists in euros and that will lead to price reductions, which is good for the consumer but which will put our margins under greater pressure. The plus side is that the euro will also opeo up markets more."

Tony Bennett, general manager of Linx International, a manufacturer of picture frames based in Mablethorpe oo the Lincolnshire coast, is also coocerned about pricing in euros. "I would like to think we will produce a euro price list but whether we publish it will depend on how much the pound fluctuates against the euro."

With the strong pound having savaged export profits in the last two years, he sees the euro as an opportunity to create a more stable business climate and backs early entry provided the conditions are right.

Tony Shepherd, chairman of Alderley Holdings, an equipment supplier to the oil industry based in Wickwar, Gloucestershire, says we should enter now. In the short term it will mean his firm no longer has to hedge in both dollars and euros - an exercise that already ties up a quarter of its working capital. In the longer term it will mean lower interest rates and greater transparency, he believes.

The Government may be cautious about membership but the message from Birmingham was "Get on with it". Next stop

Mark climbs as euro row grows

By Dizne Coyle Economics Editor

THE FINANCIAL markets sent the German mark higher on the foreign exchanges yesrate rise from the Bundesbank in the wake of the weekend's bad-tempered deal on the presidency of the oew European Central Bank (ECB).

The verdict in a speech last night of Hans Tietmeyer, Bundesbank president, on the birth of the euro kept dealers on edge all day, however.

Mr Tietmeyer was assumed to be unenthusiastic about the compromise which puts Frenchman Jean-Claude Trichet in the ECB's top job only four years into the term of Wim Duisenberg, its first president.

Theo Waigel, Germany's finance minister, was at pains yesterday to stress that Mr Duisenberg could stay on for the full eight years of his term of office if he wanted. "A date for his retirement is not included in Duisenberg's official declaration. He himself can decide how long he should stay in the job," Mr Waigel said in a German radio interview.

One Bundesbank council member, Klaus-Dieter Kühcher, had already described the compromise as a breach of the Maastricht Treaty. "This is not a good precondition for the start," be said.

The markets shrugged off the political fallout, reading the weekend's events as a signal for the Bundesbank to demonstrate its toughness by starting to raise German interest rates. Combined with the widespread expectation that UK rates have reached their peak, this took the pound lower yesterday.

The Danish central bank raised its short-term interest rate in a surprise move yesterday. Although the move was a response to domestic economic

THE European Central Bank,

Frankfurt oo 1 July, is a dark

borse. While the details of its

structure and board members

are oow known, there is a

much uncertainty about how it

hangs over its relationship with

the politicians, and specifical-

ly the Euro-X council of finance

ministers. This relationship is

likely to shift constantly with

weekend deal for Wim Duisen-

berg, the first president, to

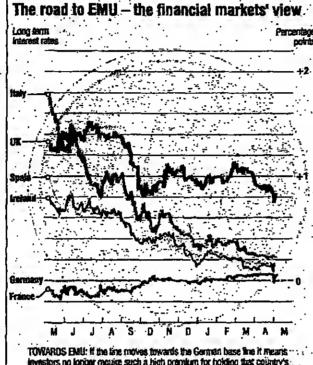
Pessimists see the ungainly

events and personalities.

One of the question marks

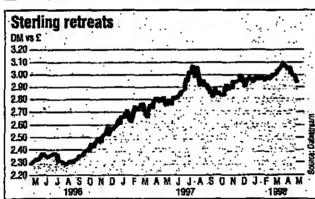
will work in practice.

which starts life formally in



investors no longer require such a high premium for holding that country's; bonds compared to German ones, because they are confident, the currency won't devalue against the mark, in other words, they think that country will be locked into a single currency with Germany in 10 years' time.

AWAY FROM EMU: However, if they think the country won't be in EMU, that it will have higher inflation, and that there is a risk of a future devaluation against the mark, then they will demand an extra premium for holding that country's bonds, so the time will move away from the base.



conditions, it helped the shift of sentiment on the foreign

future political interference.

Optimists note that the six-

person executive board and

17-member governing council

consist of eminent and tough-

minded central bankers. Their

personal credibility will boost

that of the fledgling institution,

there will be disagreemeous

within the council about the

right level of interest rates,

given the different starting

points of member countries.

The ECB-watching industry is

going to be the growth sector

par excellence of the late

1990s," said Alison Cottrell,

chief economist at Paine Web-

However, it is clear that

or so it is hoped.

ber in London.

Figures from the Bank of England yesterday suggested the trend growth in M0, the oarrow mooey measure con-

sisting mainly of casb in circulation, has slowed. Economists saw this as belping the doves on the Monetary Policy Committee bold UK interest rates unchanged at 7.25 per cent at their meeting this week.

continuing fallout from the

executive board of six, of whom

only one, Italy's Tomasso

Padoa-Schioppa, arrives with a

reputation as n "dove" on in-

the dominant personality is

likely to be the ultra-hawkish

Otmar Issing. His reputation as

the Bundesbank's chief econ-

Apart from the president,

The ECB is headed by an

Asian crisis.

terest rates.

Future lies in bankers' hands

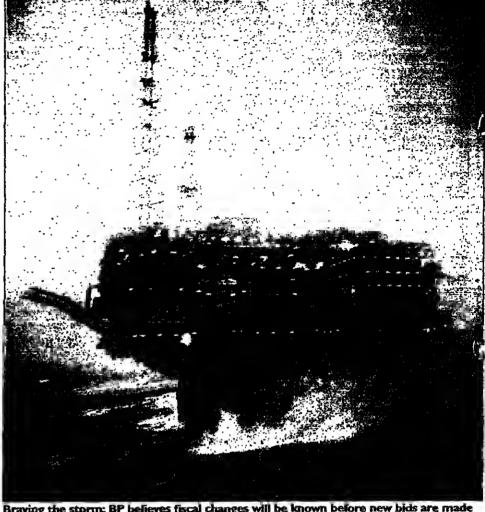
years there will be no definitive economic statistics for the euro The six are joined by the 11 area. Policy in the early years member central bank governors on the governing council, which will be aiming at a fuzzy target against a background of milwill vote on interest rate decilennium-related upheaval and

> The ECB has a broader general council, adding to the the central bank governors of the 4 Emu "outs". It will have purely administrative rather

es from the fact that for some impaired than most ceotral

> sions. Minutes of their meetings will not be published unless the secrecy amongst the grey and nearly all-male group eventually provokes enough popular

17-strong governing council than policy responsibilities, but will keep open channels of communication between the ins and the outs.



Braving the storm: BP believes fiscal changes will be known before new bids are made

North Sea oil spared tax leap

By Terry Macalister . .

THE OIL industry is becoming increasingly confident that it will escape a heavy increase in its North Sea tax burden. The optimism was underlined yesterday when British Petroleum suggested no new government licences would be handed out until the results of a fiscal review were known.

John Battle, the energy minister, rejected pleas from the UK Offshore Operators Association that the 18th round of licences be shelved because of low oil prices and uncertainty over the tax regime.

But BP said it had been giv-

the shape of any fiscal changes . would be known before bids for new acreage were concluded. Tony Hayward, head of ex-

ploration and development at

BP, said it was "the right result to accommodate both [industry and government] parties." Mr Hayward's remarks, made at his company's first quarter results briefing, suggest

the Government is going to tread carefully on a tax review that is already behind schedule. But UKOOA officials said they were unaware of any com-

mitmeet by the DTI to complete the tax review before licensing was complete. "I am en assurances by Department of not sure the timing would fit

Trade and Industry officials that anyway," said James May, director general.

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The tax review is already late. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, said in his March budget the Government would give details of its proposed tax changes by the end of Aprily. That would be followed by a

lengthy consultation period. DTI officials said an announcement on the licensing round, which is also behind schedule, would be made shortly, with applicants having until the middle of September to put in bids. The DTI said there was oo attempt to co-ordinate the timing with the Inland Revenue's review of taxes.

Investment Column, page 24

Shares for Computacenter staff

However, both men plan to

give most of the cash proceeds

By Peter Thal Larsen

COMPUTACENTER, the computer services giant, is planning to give most of its 3,000 employees free shares worth up to £1,800 as part of its planned £1bn flotation.

The company, which joins the stock market this month, will offer eligible employees between 25 and 265 free sbares. depending on how long they have been with the company.

Computaceoter yesterday announced that the shares will be priced at between 550p and 670p each when they start trading on 21 May, depending oo demand from investors.

The flotation will make multi-millionaires of Philip Hulme and Peter Ogden, Computacenter's two founders, who will both retain a 25 per cent stake in the company, likely to be

they will receive from the flotation, around £50m, to charity. Mr Hulme, Computacenter's chairman, plans to lodge the entire £30m he makes from selling 5 million shares in the company in a charitable trust. Mr Ogden, who has stepped back from running the company but plans to stay on as a non-executive director, is planning to do the same with two-thirds of the £28m he will receive. No decision bas been made about which charities will benefit, although Mr Og-

A 15.7 per cent stake is currently beld by 700 existing and former employees, in shares and options.

donations to universities.

Mike Norris, chief executive, said the flotation would allow

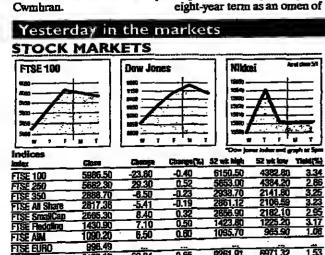
den has in the past made

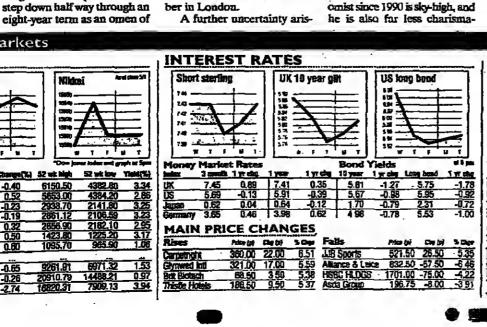
worth more than £250m. all Computacenter's employees share in the company's future. Only 25.9 per cent of the shares - close to the minimum allowed - is being placed with institu- C. tional investors.

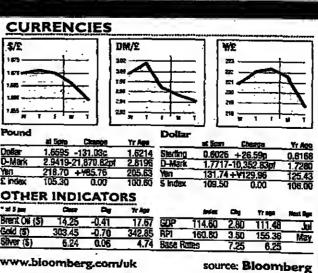
Apax and Foreign & Colonial, the venture capital groups which are long-standing shareholders in Computacenter, will retain stakes of 9.8 per cent and 4.9 per cent respectively.

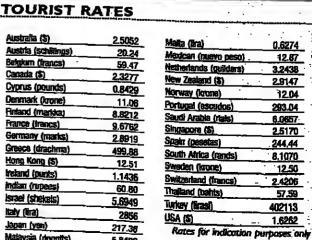
They also supply the two independent con-executive directors to the company's board.

Computacenter, founded in the early 1980s, has enjoyed rapid growth. The company, which specialises in offering a full range of services, has benefited from the trend for large companies to band over sponsibility for their informatioo technology systems to outside organisations. Investment Column, page 24









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OUTLOOK ON HOUSTON'S SECOND STAB AT THE UK MARKET, THE ATTRACTIONS OF THE EURO OVER STERLING, AND PROBLEMS WITH DISCIPLINE AMONG ACCOUNTANTS

PowerGen deal generates many questions

THE LAST time the boys from Houston Industries went a huntin' for a British electricity company, they famously came loaded for bear. Unfortunately, somewhere deep in the woods, they encountered Sir Desmond Pitcher armed with a rocket launcher and that was the end of their ambitions to take over Norweh.

This time around the boot is on the other foot and it is Houston which is being courted by the British electricity generator Power-Gen. However, rather than the blunt instrument of a knock-out bid, Ed Wallis is trying out the softly, softly approach and has sidled up to his opposite number at Houston, Jim Rogers, with the idea of a nopremium, all shares merger.

Now there is no doubting the PowerGen chairman's desire to do some kind of a deal. Having been barred from taking over Midlands Electricity, he ran the slide rule over Cinergy, the US utility which eventually acquired Midlands. Nor is there much question that PowerGen needs to do something. faced with the prospect of a declining share of the domestic generating market, shrinking profits and little evidence that this Government is better disposed to vertical integration than the last one.

But is Houston Industries the answer? There is no overlap between the two so there are no cost-savings to be had. And Power-Gen scarcely needs to go to the expense and trouble of merging with a US electricity retailer to learn how it might attack the UK domestic market once it is liberalised.

Even if the problems of clashing egos, US regulatory approval and how to maintain a quote in blue chip indices on both sides of

the Atlantic could be overcome, such a merger still poses more questions than answers. PowerGen has to ask itself what the point is of merging with a US business which is also beginning to feel the effects of deregulation, increased competition and pressure on margins. Together they could end up like two drunks propping one another up at the bar.

If on the other hand, the deal does geouinely fill a hole for PowerGen, then Houston shareholders have to ask what is in it for them, since US utilities are more highly rated than their UK counterparts.

PowerGen has rather been pushed into searching for a big overseas deal by the closing of doors back home and its slowness. compared to National Power, in building up an overseas generating portfolio of its own. But it is a high-risk strategy which shareholders should not encourage by giving Mr Wallis the ammunition.

Euro rift won't prop up the pound

THERE WERE contradictory reactions to the hirth of the euro doing the rounds yesterday, each with its own ardent supporters amongst the ranks of the pundits.

One was that the fudge over the European Central Bank presidency signalled a weak euro that would be manipulated by politicians. The pound will therefore rise because sterling is a safe haven from the turbulence of the Continent, argued those who see Mr Duisenberg and Mr Trichet as puppets in the unreliable hands of presidents and finance ministers.

The alternative view was that the ECB deal, however messy, is now history, and there is no way for politicians to interfere in future in the decisions of 17 central bankers with fixed terms of office voting in secret. According to this way of thinking, the ECB, preceded by the Bundesbank during the next few months, will be ultra-tough on interest rates to establish credibility, so the pound will fall.

The pound did droop noticeably against the mark yesterday, taking sterling's fall to 5 per cent since a peak of just under DM3.10 on April Fool's Day. The down-with-thepound tendency was pushing in the same di-rection as the existing trend. The question is whether the introduction of the single currency will help this welcome trend continue.

There are two good reasons for thinking it will. One is the shifting balance of economic growth and interest rates as the UK economy cools off. The chances that UK rates have reached their peak have increased with of the most recent data. A slowdown is now obviously underway. Meanwhile, the German and French economies are picking up slowly, while other euro member economics are steaming ahead. This points to convergence at a relatively high level of interest rates by the ECB when it takes its first vote next January, and by member central banks co-ordinating policy in the runup to that handover.

The second reason is that, no matter how much investors might regard sterling as a safe haven from Cootinental storms, there will be many who wish to increase the weight of euro assets in their portfolios. So far, none of the benchmark indices widely used by fell off his yacht, the JDS finally an-

investors has incorporated the euro, but this will change over the next six months. When they do, many big investors will be required to adjust their portfolios to reflect those weights, and that means buying euros. Stering is the obvious candidate for a with-drawal of funds when that happens.

Obviously events might yet outweigh these reasons—a Tiermeyer resignation, for example, or a relapse into recession in France or Germany. But until some real drama occurs, the pound looks more likely to drift lower than to soar to new heights because politicians could not agree on a choice between central bankers.

Accountants are slow to judge

THERE ARE very few examples of self regulation left these days but one surviving outpost of the old way of doing things is the Joint Disciplinary Scheme operated by the accountancy profession. Post the great fraudulent collapses of the late 1980s and early 1990s - Brent Walker, Maxwell and Polly Peck, to name but three - the accountants too have felt the wolves at their door. Procedures and disciplines are being overhauled and tightened up, and so far the JDC has managed to keep the politicians at bay. Even so, the accountants seem to have a problem when it comes to hanging members of their own profession, and their disciplinary proceedings remain under close public scrutiny.

Six and a half years after Robert Maxwell

nounced yesterday that it was proceeding to tribunal with a number of unpublished findings against Coopers & Lybrand, the firm that audited most of Maxwell's interests. The nub of the complaint is that by August 1991, three months before Maxwell died, the firm should have had sufficient evidence of fraud and malpractice to warrant either resigning as auditor or alerting the authorities. Most of us would find this a far from revelatory finding. How could it have taken the JDS so tong?

To be fair, the JDS does seem to be going a bit faster than some of its statutory counterparts. The Department of Trade and Industry report into the flotation of Mirror Group has still to see the light of day. Furthermore, civil proceedings over the collapse and the emergence of a conflict of interest meant the JDC's investigation didn't get properly under way until 1995. So maybe it isn't doing too badly. All the same, Chris Dickson, executive counsel to the JDS, must be acutely aware of the criticism of slowness.

Meanwhile, it is the unfortunate lot of Coopers and Lybrand that this has become something of a show case. The accountants have to demonstrate that self regulation can work if they are to defend their system. Coopers and the four partners the JDS has chosen to nail to the cross can therefore expect the harshest penalties to be imposed should the case stick. And because proceedings before the tribunal continue for the time being to be held in private, the public isn't going to have much confidence in any outcome other than guilty as charged. Self regulation may have its virtues, but for obvious reasons, it can be prone to bad justice.

Swiss clear bank merger

UBS and SBC have won approval for their proposed merger from the Swiss competition commission. Clearance was granted on condition that the banks try to sell 25 of their 550 Swiss branches to a single buyer, dispose of Solothurn, a regional bank, and BSL a private bank. The banks said talks over the sale of BSI were well-advanced. The two banks oow need US approval of their merger plans, and expect to complete their deal in early June.

Rule book

pared tax a

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gave a warm welcome to the publication of a new "userfriendly" handbook on hanking. supervision policy. The handbook - commissioned in the wake of the Barings collapse restates and clarifies the rules oo banking supervision, and will replace the previous system of issuing "notices to institu-tions". The new handbook

THE FINANCIAL community

comes into force on 29 June. CRS losses

CO-OPERATIVE Retail Services came under further pressure to merge with its sister organisation, the Co-operative Wholesale Society, yesterday after reporting spiralling losses despite a heavy investment programme. CRS, which cootrols supermarkets, funeral parlous and home furnishings stores, recorded losses of £25.6m last year compared with losses of £13.5m in 1996.

Lloyd's gloom

LLOYD'S of London, the insurance market, yesterday issued a three-year profits warnings and said members would struggle to make a profit at all on business written in 1998. Despite record profits of £1.15bn for 1995, profits would haive oext year as results fed through from 1996. Profits for 1997 would be just £366m, a quarter of their present level.

Menzies sold

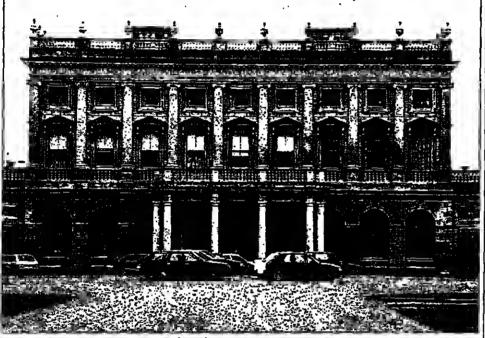
WH SMITH has completed the acquisitioo of the John Menzies retail chain for £68m. his includes £10m of freehold property which will be sold and leased back. The Menzies stores will focus on books, newspapers, magazines and stationery.

Homes dearer

THE PROPERTY boom is not yet over, according to new figures from Halifax. They show that average prices in the UK rose 0.8 per cent in April compared with a revised increase of 0.7 per cent in March.

Body Shop talks

BODY Shop International yesterday confirmed it was in talks in relation to its US activities. The company said it was "aware of press comment" and confirmed that discussions have been held in this respect".



Politics, scandal, luxury: Cliveden, now a hotel, is set in 375 acres of park and gardens

Home at the heart of British history may fall to Americans

By John Willcock

CLIVEDEN, the country home of the Astor family and the place where John Profuno notoriously met Christine Keeler, could be the latest national treasure to fall into foreign

The Cliveden group, which owns the Berkshire residence as well as the Royal Crescent Hotel in Bath and the Cliveden Town House in Chelsea, announced yesterday it was in takeover talks after being approached by a potential bidder. The development comes

weeks after the Savoy Group

Blackstone, a US investment

It is the Americans who are leading the race to buy Cliveden. Meditrust, a US property group, has emerged as front-runner. However, it may face competition from other US property companies such as Starwood and Patriot whichhave used their special tax status to launch acquisition sprees in recent years. Several UK hotel groups are also understood to be interested, raising the prospect of a bid-

Sources close to the group

was bought for £520m by suggest that John Lewis and John Tham, who co-founded Cliveden, are keen to sell and have been encouraging buyers to make an offer. Both stand to

become millionaires. Cliveden's shares rose 12p to 91.5p valuing the group at

Cliveden, which was at the centre of the Profumo scandal. is part of British political history. Formerly the home of a Prince of Wales, three dukes and three generations of the Astor family, the house has been turned into a hotel, which is set in 375 acres of National Trust park and gardens.

Kingfisher builds position in Germany of Wegert, based in Berlin.

By Nigel Cope Associate City Editor

KINGFISHER, the B&Q and Comet group, underlined its amhitions to become a pan-European retailer yesterday when it agreed to pay up to £250m for two German electrical businesses

Under the deal's complex structure Kingfisher is paying an initial £50m for 60 per cent

The sum also includes a deal to buy Promarkt Holdings, another electrical business with a strooghold in southern Germany and Luxembourg. Kingfisher has options to buy the remainder of Wegert for £20m to £202m depending oo performance.

"Strategically, the deals make sense but there are some concerns about the eventual price," ooe analyst said. "If it

eods up at £250m that would look far too expensive."

The two acquisitions will give Kingfisher almost 2 per cent of Germany's fragmented electrical retail market. Metro, Germany's largest retail group, has the largest share with 10 per cent. Analysts said the deal could

herald a move by Kingfisher into the German DIY market. There has been consistent speculation about a possible move for Hornhach, a German DIY retailer which has held talks

with Kingfisher before. Kingfisher has been building a European business for several years. It already owns Darty, the Freoch electrical retail chain, as well as husinesses io Holland and Belgium.

Wegert last year made profits of £6.3m oo sales of £237m. Promarkt made £222,000 on sales of £164m.

Kingfisher shares closed 16p

Tribunal to judge role of Maxwell's auditors

By John Wiltcock

COOPERS & Lybrand and four of its partners are to face a disciplinary tribunal this summer over its role as auditor of the late Robert Maxwell's busioess empire, in a case which is set to drag the role of accountants in company failures back into the public arena.

Chris Dickson, the executive counsel to the accountancy profession's Joint Disciplinary Scheme (JDS), said yesterday he had completed his investigations into Coopers, and he hoped the Joint Disciplinary Tribunal's findings would be published by the end of the year.

If found guilty, the firm, which is in the process of merging with Price Waterhouse to create the world's biggest professional services firm, could face "unlimited fines".

The individuals could face expulsion from the Institute of Chartered Accountants, a move which would prevent them from operating as chartered accountants.

A spate of spectacular collapses during the last recession by companies sooo after they had seemingly been given clean bills of health prompted attacks on the idea of self-regulation. Since then the accountancy profession has fought a rearguard action to retain its role in regulating itself.

Many observers see the impending hearing by the JDS Tribunal as the profession's "last

A senior OC and two accountants, yet to be appointed, will consider a number of complaints against Coopers concerning the Maxwell pensioo funds, Mirror Group Newspapers and the tycooo's private

Robert Maxwell died in November 1991 when he fell off his yacht off the Canary Islands. His empire of over 400 companies, almost all of which were audited by Coopers, then collapsed, revealing a £400m "black hole" of missing pension

Mr Dicksoo said yesterday that he had laid complaints against Coopers concerning "the Maxwell pension funds" and a oumber of other matters.

One of his complaints coocerned "the firm's consideration, by early August 1991, of its position in relation to the Maxwell entities for which it

acted". The complaint continued: "Coopers should have considered whether there was evideoce of fraud, other irregularities, defaults or unlawful acts necessitating a report to a proper authority."

Coopers issued a statement saying that it bad been aware for some time the JDS's executive counsel had been considering whether to refer the case to a trihunal and added that it would "co-operate fully with in the process".

The firm, which is being sued for alleged negligence over its role as auditor to the Maxwell group of companies, had sought to have the JDS investigation postponed. But, although Price Waterhouse succeeded in delaying a similar examination of its actions over the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce Ioternacional (BCCI), the High Court dismissed its action in late 1994.

Outlook, this page

Liffe still losing ground to rival

LIFFE, Loodon's troubled futures and options exchange, is continuing to lose ground to its arch-rival in Germany, according to figures published yesterday. The London exchange's

market share of the prestigious German bood (Bund) future slipped to just 19 per cent last month, with the Deutsche Terminbörse (DTB) taking the remaining 81 per cent. Liffe's share was down from around 30 per cent in March and 70 per cent last summer.
The volume of Bund futures

traded oo Liffe more than halved during April, Liffe traded 1.56 million Bund contracts tast month, down from 3.23 million in March.

However, the figures revealed that Liffe cootinoed to dominate trading in the more complex short-term interest rate (Stir) products, with Stir volumes up 58 per cent in the year to date.

An exchange spokesperson attributed Liffe's success with Stir products to the exchange's

"open outcry" method of trading. DTB uses an electronic trading system.

The spokespersoo said: "The Bund future is a much more simple contract and can be applied to current electronic trading platforms. Stir products are more complex, and there is currently no electronic trading platform that can replicate the trading of these products in the pit."

Liffe's board is due to meet later today to try to hammer out detailed plans for the future of the exchange. Liffe's 215-strong membership has already endorsed plans to cut the size of the board and introduce a fulltime chairman, in an attempt to streamline decision-making.

On 21 May, members will vote on plans to introduce a state-of-the-art electronic trading system as well as proposals for ownership reform. At today's meeting, the board is expected to discuss detailed reforms of the share structure as well as the contentious proposal to sever the link between share ownership and trading permits.



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THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

BP shows

its mettle

THE OIL sector was one of the glory boys of the stock market last year, driven upwards by a soaring crude price and huge "elephant" discoveries in new areas like Angola and the Caspian.

How quickly the industry has fallen from grace. Investors have pulled out of nil stocks faster thao Michael Schumacher clears the pits. The share price of exploration and production companies has plummeted the most. The nil price is stuck around the \$14 per barrel mark.

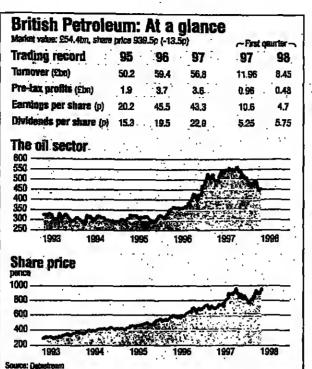
City opinion is divided oo whether the sector has been oversold and is ripe for a comeback. Certainly there are noises from within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries that a second production-cutting package might be on the cards. If that happened and prices did finally begin to rise towards the Opec goal of \$17 then a rerating of the sector would cer- the next year or so. tainly be in nrder.

But regardless of nil price changes, some stock prices have managed to weather the storm. Shell has risen by 20 per cent year on year while BP is up by a healthy 36 per ceot.

BP showed more of its mettle yesterday by beating 22 out of 24 analyst predictions in annunciog first quarter box-shifter profits, before exceptional items, of £582m. That was 22 per cent down no last time but Oil majors generally have averaged a 38 per ceot fall and earnings at Chevrnn and Texaco have almost halved.

The oil price was \$7 lower than the same quarter last year £0.9bn to £1.1bo may look a but BP was cushiooed by a strong performance in the downstream sector, where profits rose by 32 per cent on last time.

Chief executive Joho Browne summed up the situation, describing the results as "good in a very tough climate". He added: "We've seen improvements in trough-cycle performance in all husinesses. and there is more to come in



perhaps. It is true that Com-

putacenter is essentially a dis-

tributor: it buys computer

hardware and software from the

likes of Compag and Microsoft

and sells this on to its clients.

margin husiness, but to lump

Computacenter together with

other distributors is to misun-

derstand the unique nature of

its business. Essentially, the

company has used its contact

with customers as a supplier of

kit to build up a sophisticated

range of services. Customers

-which include half the FTSE

100 index - oow call on Com-

putacenter to plan, requisition,

implement, support and man-

age their computer networks.

This noe-stnp shop approach

accounts for the vast bulk of

profits, and explains why it can

sustain a gross profit margin of

helped Computacenter's prof-

its to almost quadruple in the

past three years. And give the

cootinuing shift away from

mainframe systems towards

networks based on personal

computers, that growth looks set

to continue. Goldman Sachs.

Growing demand has

over 20 per cent.

This can be a volatile, low-

reality is that unless Opec gets glorified box-shifter? Well, its act tngether, BP's earnings are likely to look pedestrian for

Profit taking pushed BP's share price down 13.5p tn 939.5p yesterday. SG Securities has the nil major on 1998 profits of £2.3bn, putting it on a forward multiple of 24. Hold.

More than a

GIVEN British investors' current hunger for information technnlogy stocks, Computacenter looks assured of a good reception when it joins the market later this month.

The mooted price range of hefty price to pay for a company which made post-tax profits of just £31m in 1997. But it's a tokeo of how rapidly valuations for British IT companies have soared in the past few months that a historical price/earnings multiple of between 30 and 37 begins to look like a bit of a bargain.

Is this reasonable for a company which some - barshly the rest of the year." But the classify as oothing more than a

managing the flotation, predicts post-tax profits of £40m this year and annual growth of around 20 per cent thereafter.

All this makes Computacenter shares good value right up to the top of the share price range, set at 550p-670p. But dnn't chase them any higher.

Incepta thinks big

PUBLIC relations firms are never backward at coming forward, especially when talking up their own fortunes, as David Wright, chief executive of Incepta, proved again yesterday.

Not only does he want to make Incepta, which owns the Citigate PR outfit, a global player. He envisages doubling its current market capitalisatioo in little more than a year and plans to quadruple it within three years through acquisitions in Europe and North

The group was formed a year ago by the reverse takeover of the existing marketing company by Citigate. So far everything has gone to plan. The group comfortably beat forecasts yesterday when it ancounced pre-tax profits of £5.6m for the year to February.

Of course advertising, public relations and marketing are all cyclical businesses in competitive markets, where a group can grow very rapidly and equally quickly lose its way. But we are probably still some way off reaching the peak.

And the ambitinus expansion plan looks sensible, given that only firms with critical mass and a complete range of services stand much chance of winning the lucrative accounts of international companies.

The company's broker, Beeson Gregory, yesterday increased its forecasts for the current year from £6m to £6.7m and looking for £8.3m in the year to February 2000. The shares edged up 1.75p to 24.75p, yesterday. At 12 times forecast earnings, falling to 10 the year after, they are still cheap relative to rivals like WPP and the investment bank which is Abbott Mead Vickers.



Vodafone, Britain's biggest mobile telephone company, is slashing off-peak consumer call charges by 50 per cent to 5p per minute from 10p from 1 June. The company said the new tariffs - which it called the UK's cheapest off-peak calling rates -- would be supported by a £2.5m advertising campaign. Announcing its

second set of price cuts in six months, Vodafone said tariffs between 7pm and 8am Monday to Friday and all weekend would start from only 2p per minute for those subscribing to its local call saver option. The move is also designed to make cellphone prices more competitive with fixed line Photograph: Mykel Nicolaou

Pentair tops £94m bid for Vero Group

VERO Group, the electronic components firm, was yesterday "considering its position" after Pentair of the United States said it was making a cash offer valuing the company at around £102.2m.

Vero said in a statement it would make a further annnuncement in "due course".

Pentair's 170p-a-share offer for Vero tops the £94.4m recommended hid at 157p-a-share from Applied Power. Pentair said it was seeking a recommendation from Vero.

Vero's share price closed up 7.5p at 180p. The latest offer represents a premium of around 43 per cent to Vero's share price on the day before it anwhich might lead to an offer. Peotair said it expected the

acquisition to be "modestly accretive" to earnings per share "The acquisition of Vero

represents ... an excellent opportunity for Pentair to strengthen the position of its electrical and electronic enclosures group in two fastgrowing segments - the data networking and telecommunications equipment markets," Pentair's chairman and chief executive, Winslow Buxton, said.

Vero would gain access to expanded distribution and marketing for its products, he said. "We strongly believe that

nounced, in March, it was in talks our offer is in the best interests of the shareholders as well as the customers of Vero and hope that our offer will be promptly recommended by the board of Vero."

Applied Power also said it was "considering its positioo" in the light of the Pentair bid and would make a further announcement in due course.

The rival hid from Pentair was not unexpected, but the market had been waiting to see at what price level it would be pitched, market sources said. Pentair is a diversified

industrial manufacturer based in Minnesota with a market. capitalisation of \$1.6bn (£1bn).

ital lies the LBS sitval. He nier

Management College, which

holds its degree ceremony this

Saturday. The shindig will in-

clude the first MBAs to be

There was coocern, how-

ever, wheo Sir Roger Hurn of

Smiths Industries, chairman of

Henleys' board of governors,

couldn't find his ceremonial cap

for the forthcoming degree

awards, where he is due to lead

He was just about to order

another one when he found his

cap in the garage - where he

had left it after a grouse shoot-

I'VE NOTHING against peo-

ple publicising their case, but

the people organising the "Mil-

lennium Bug Economic Break-

fast Seminar this Thursday

have gooe a bit over the top.

ers at the event at the Dorch-

ester Hotel, Jan Timmer, the

nrganisers write: "Chairman

of the Millennium Platform,

The Netherlands. Mr Timmer's

appnintment by the Dutch

Prime Minister, Mr Wim Kok,

was a stroke of political and

on: "Considered to be the

most influential year 2000 Czar

Cripes. The Organisers go

economic genius.

Describing one of the speak-

the proceediogs.

awarded by Henley itself.

Directors bid to take **Fitzwilton** private

secc

By Nigel Cope Associate City Editor

FTTZWILTON announced yesterday that discussions were taking place with a consortium led by Dr Tony O'Reilly, the group's chairman, and another non-executive director over a deal to take the Irish retail group private.

The consortium is offering 50p per share, a 37 per cent premium to the closing price on Friday. Fitzwilton shares closed 4p higher at 40.5p yesterday. Dr O'Reilly and Peter John Goulandris already control 27.6 per cent of Fitzwilton, which is due to report full-year results today.

Fitzwilton owns a 16 per cent stake in Waterford Wedgwood, the crystal and ceramics group: Last June it signed a joint venture with Safeway to redevelop its Wellworth supermarkets under the Safeway name in Ireland.
It also owns a stake in Rennicks. a sign manufacturing company.

Kyiran McLoughlan, an analyst with Davy Stockbrokers, said he believed "institutions will find the consortium's bid attractive" and approve the deal.

He added that holding companies such as Fitzwilton used to be popular with institutional investors in the past as they were used as vehicles to invest abroad. They have recently fallen out of favour with institutions, which prefer to invest directly in foreign companies, he said.

Other large shareholders in Fitzwilton include PDFM, with 13 per cent, BOI Nominees. with 12.43 per cent and Dunnes - Agencies | Stores with 10.43 per ceot.

IMF terms spark riots in Indonesia

By Stephen Vines in Hong Kong

AFTER a delay of oearly two months Indonesia was finally given the second tranche of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout, totalling almost \$1bn. However the strict terms under which the loan was made have contributed to an outhreak of

in turn unsettled the financial markets and share prices slid over 2 per cent.

Originally Indonesia was scheduled to receive \$3bn oo 15 March but the IMF said it was unhappy about the government's willingness to implement a reform programme it believed had been agreed. A flurry of talks were theo held.

Yesterday it became clear that not only rioting in the Indonesian city of Medan. This has the disbursement been cut by a third

but it also came accompanied by a warning from the IMF that the rest would oot be paid if there was more back-sliding.

On Monday the Indonesian government ended fuel subsidies, which sent the price of petrol and keroseoe, used by the poor for cooking, soaring. The government also ended the clove monopoly in the hands of President Subarto's son Hutomo Mandala Putra.

pointment."

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River Duddon, Lake District by John Voos



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PEOPLE & **BUSINESS**

IOHN WILLCOCK



YESTERDAY's move by the accountancy profession's Joint Disciplinary Scheme (JDS) against Cnopers & Lybrand over its role as Robert Maxwell's auditor comes as the current issue of Financial Director magazine reveals that the late tycoon would almost certainly have passed the corporate governance checklists devised in prevent a repeat of "the Maxwell scandal".

Putting the 1991 Maxwell Communications Corporatioo (MCC) annual report and the Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN) prospectus to the test in the light of the proposed supercode amalgamaonn of the Cadbury, Greenbury and Hampel corporate governance reports, the magazine coocludes that Maxwell would have acquitted himself well on paper, if not in his real-life dealings.

The checklist covers the super-code key principles concerning directors, directors' pay, relations with shareholders and auditor procedures. Both MCC and MGN score highly,

(4 9 9 €

even outperforming other OVER to the west of the cap- in the world, he has utilised his conglomerates

FD concludes: "The unoerving truth is that the public, official face of Maxwell was

The school also has three oew governors: The redoubtable Dame Sheila Masters, a partner at KPMG and a director of the Bank of England; Jonathan J Ledecky, chairman and chief executive officer of Consolidation Capital Corporation, a facilities management company; and Robert F White, a managing director nf Bain Capital, a private equity firm based in Boston, Massachusetts.

Mr Treves takes over the role of head of the governing body from Lord Sainsbury of Turville, who has spent eight years as chairman. Lord Sainsbury remains as a governor. Mr Treves commented yes-

COMPANY				
	Turnover £	Pre-tax L	EPS	Dividend
Anglo-Eastern Plates.(F)	15.03m (12.44m)	2 8m (7.1m)	9.6p (9.7p)	4.0p (3.49p)
Mistor & Batterson (F)	8.8m (7.55m)	-0.56m (0.545m)	-4.5p (3.6p)	0.75p(1.5p)
Huntingson Life Scas.(0)	13.43m (17 24m)	-4 01m (0.163m)	-3.5p (-0.1p)	- (-)
Incopia Grasp(F)	88.17m (16.82m)	5.611m (1.611m)	2.28p (0.93p)	0.35p (-)
Station Group(I)	75.74m (83,21m)	3 667m (17.39m)	5.0g (21.8g)	1.25a /1.0a)

quite acceptable to the City."

I knew it: perhaps he wasn't

such a bad chap after all. I'm sure the DTI's report into the Mirror's fintation, when its finally published, will bear this THE LONDON Business

School (LBS) in Regent's Park has got a new team at the top, led by John Quelch, a former Harvard Professor who become Dean of the LBS on 1 July. Vanni Treves, senior partner at Macfarlanes, the law firm, and chairman of Channel Four, becomes the chairman of the governing body. Martin Sorrell, chief executive of WPP Group becomes the deputy chairman.

terday: "There is a great deal of ambitinn and promise in the air of Regent's Park." I must get down there and sniff some immediately. I wooder if you can bottle it. Hang no a minute. there's a business apportunity

. .

Discover the power of Cause-Related Marketing This two day national conference in association

with The Independent will discuss how to build strategic alliances through effective Cause Related Marketing. For more information contact Bruce Graham on the number below or look for the large advertisement in Monday's Media+ section of The Eye.

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INDEPËNDENT INDEPENDENT SAATCHI & SAATCHI

Part of the second seco

the most influential company in the Netherlands, to galvanise both private and public sectors into meteoric action on year 2000 issues since his ap-Blimey. As if this wasn't

त्रीत करिक प्रिकेश के दिन्दी के जिल्हा करिक है है जिल्हा करिक है । जिल्हा के जिल्हा करिक है जिल्हा करिया है । जिल्हा के जिल्हा के जिल्हा करिया के जिल्हा करिया है ।

enough about the man who has downsized thousands of Philips employees, Insurance Specialist proclaims: "referred to as 'the Gary Lineker of the Netherlands', receotly he can do nn wrong in the eyes of the Dutch public." Come on Jan, band the

power base at Philips, possibly

crisps back....

I HAVE received a press release informing me that nne Peter Childs has been appointed director of the professional services division in UK, Ireland and the Benelux countries for BEA Systems, "a leadiog provider of distributed mission critical enterprise middleware solutions".

Remember when people used in write in plain English?

THIS is much more like it: "DIAL-A-DRINK", a service which delivers booze and soft drinks to your home, has just been launched in York. The sooner it reaches my area the

Second liners continue to scale new peaks

MARKET REPORT



abinet

DEREK PAIN

time as mid and small cap shares stretched to new peaks.

with the attendant worries of 5,986.5. higher European interest rates, quickly killed off an ued to help exporters with early blue chips' advance but British Steel up 5.5p to 167.5p the rest of the stock market and GKN 40p at 1,778p.

was in fine form. The FTSE 250 index ended 29.3 points higher at 5,682.3 the market built on the and the SmallCap index improved 8.4 to 2,665.3.

The day's performance was a huge value gap with the rest of the market, which seemed destined to drift aimlessly.

The undercard rally has been dramatic and many experts believe the second and third liners, helped by the

halves; blue chips marked Ynrk's record high. Buyers statement. The share price into reverse and, by the close, The euro's difficult birth, Fnotsie was down 23.8 at

The weaker pound contin-

PowerGen, the generator, was at nne time 33p higher as takeover inspired rise. The shares ended at 825p, up 18p.

The group is thought to be a continuation of a trend in talks with Houston Induswhich started in late January. tries, although any deal could Until then Footsie constit- be some months away. PG is uents romped ahead, creating keen to find a US partner, there has been talk it was in negotiations with another US group, Cinergy, a Cincinnati electricity group. Houston has made no secret of its British ambitions and even bid un-

successfully for Norweb.

stayed away. Blue chips went movement isn't that exaggerated and you have to remember it follows a dip over the last couple of weeks." Keeping shareholders informed is, apparently, way down PG's list of priorities.

BT improved 4.5p to 663.5p with Bankers Trust suggesting the price should be

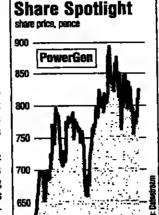
Demerger hopes lifted Hillsdown Holdings 6.5p to 186p and Christie International, the auctinneers, responded to Joseph Lewis' departure with a 13.5p gain to 296p. The Lewis 29 per cent stake has gone to Artemis, a French investment group run by Francois Pinault.

Music group Boosey & Hawkes' reorganisation, which killed hopes of a bid following the Carl Fischer retreat, was greeted with a predicable off-

IT WAS a market of two mark up, prompted by New no requirement to make a prompt a bid for full control. Thistle Hotels where Briefley the shares touched 1,062.5p. Cliveden, the upmarket

hntel group, gained 12p to 91.5p after duly confirming a bid approach. Hanover International, long regarded as a bid target, put on 6p to 139.5p.

The excitement engulfed



Investments, reconsidering its investment policy, sits nn 46 per cent. The shares improved 9.5p to 186.5p. Brierley is thought to be wa-

settle unchanged at £2,800. But happy about its Thistle in-Manchester City fell 10p to volvement and, indeed, the chain's weak share performance. It could be prepared specialist printing group, fell to sell out, which could leave 11p to 101p as expected bidthe company wide open to a der, US group Quaestus, debidder. cided to walk away. Last

CSFB, the old BZW, helped the Thistle growth by moving its stance from hold to buy.

H Young, the distributor, firmed 2p to 152.5p after splashing out £5.1m for Leeda, the nation's largest distributor of fishing tackle, and £1.4m for Powerline, a branded power supplies group.

ing début, closing at 125p against a 103p placing. On Ofex, Appian Traffic Technologies, placed at 20p, closed

JWE Telecom made a ring-

TAKING STOCK

The football ups and downs

had an impact. Tottenham

Hotspur's Premiership sur-

vival lifted the shares 3p to

72.5p. Again on Ofex, Arsenal

lost an early £100 gain to

Aspen, a marketing and

month Photobitinn failed to

721.5p as Panmure Gordon

put an 860p price on the

AEA Technology firmed to

Arriva, the transport

million shares changing

group, hardened to 424p with

hands, a deal which could sig-

nal the end of a selling pro-

gramme. Investment meetings

are planned this week.

agree a takeover.

JOHN GUNN, the 1980's entrepreneur, has nudged up his stake in West 175 Enterprises, an AIM-traded company which produces "lifestyle" television programmes and connected books and merchandise. He has acquired 10,000 shares. lifting his interest to 4.87 per cent. His modest buy spurred the shares 10p to 65p. They were placed at 125p nearly two years ago. The price bas

been down to 50p.

CARLTON Communications and Granada are due to hold a City investment presentation on Friday. Subject is their ioint digital television operation due to start towards the end of the year. Cariton shares shaded 2p to 518p; Granada rose 28p to 1,075p.

FIBERNET, the national communications network group, will make further losses - perhaps £2.5m - this year but produce profits of £6m next year, believes stockshares are 300p, up 2.5p.

Ankett, an architect, gained 1.75p to 8.25p after gaining Surprisingly, PG felt the arrival of new market-makers, at 35p. It is the 200th company broker Greig Middleton. The key response - a 137.5p fall to orders worth £100m, which talks, which it did not deny, did will continue tn move ahead. to be listed on the fringe Footsie scored an early nnt deserve a statement. A 637.5p. Last year, on hopes the add up to £3.5m in fees. Carl Fischer withdrawal would 54.3 gain. It was an unrealistic spokeswoman said: "We see Q week |High Low Stack Alcoholic Beverages
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Gulland almost drops Vase

By Richard Edmondson at Chester

CHESTER was not a porteotous stopping point for Harry Hotspur as be disputed Henry IV's right to the throne. He was killed soon afterwards during a hattle at Shrewsbury.

A similar eventuality appears likely to befall the prospects of another visitor to the walled city. Gulland's main battle will be the Derby next month, but the way the scrambled home in the Chester Vase yesterday suggests ante-post supporters can already throw themselves, or their

vouchers at least, oo the sword. Gulland started the day at 5-1 for Epsom, but this tarnished effort in victory meant he was pushed out to 14-1 (by William Hill). A peculiarity of the Derby market is that you can now get 10-1 the field, but there are at all though, negotiating each

2.10: FIVE OF SPADES reverts to his best distance after two tries at seven furlongs. Rain would help the cause of this gelding, who is from a stable that has a good record here. A low draw is usually a big advantage in sprints, and while the se- of all and his talented young rider lection's stall seven could be better, is making a name for himself. t is more favourable than the outside berths of the fancied Only For Gold and Marston Moss.

CHESTER

aaa2.40: BODFARI MUKA is handily drawn in stall three and can go into the record books as Barry Hills's Although now a further 81b higher 100th Chester winner. At Newmarket last month this colt was a two-length runner-up to Queensland Star, a winner here yesterday. Nathan's Hero is an outsider to keep an eye on. He is drawn best are likely to finish in close proxim-

Musselburgh

three horses who would be bend as if it had been buttered. and theo he just had a wander quoted at shorter odds if their participation was confirmed. If ner in the oext few days they will immediately become favourite.

look more worthy of Parkhurst wasn't able to give Gulland a than Epsom following the shabby runs of those that finished around him in the Craven Stakes. Nevertheless, he looked the part parading yesterday.

If dogs grow like their owners, then many racehorses are recognisable by the trainers which prepare them. Gulland was typically Geoff Wragg, a long, well-groomed colt with a distinguishing crested neck and noseband. There was another who looked like him, Ridgeway, his pacemaking stablemate.

The pathfinder ran oo race

"Paul [Eddery, the jockey] said participation was confirmed. If the horse was watching the Cape Verdi, Second Empire or television [camera vehicle] all King Of Kings is declared a run- the way round and he wouldn't corner because he was ducking away from it," Wragg said. "He Gulland o form had begun to wasn't paying attention so he

> proper lead. "The other fellow had to go on much sooner than he wanted to and that took the speed that you oeed at a finish away from him."

Gulland, a 1-2 shot, was actually forced to take up the running five furlongs out and by the cotrance to the straight he looked as though he was going to detach himself from the field by some margin. Then it started to go wrong. "My horse got tired and the last bit just caught him out," Michael Hills said. "He quickeoed well turning in

and a look at the crowd." It was just as well that Chester's is the shortest run-in have to think about it " Alex Ferguson's Queens-

in the game otherwise Gulland would have been caught. The Glow-Worm, whose bottom had been warmed by Pat Eddery at the top of the home stretch, was in front a yard past the line. Gulland, oo this day at least, appeared a non-stayer. The Glow-Worm is not con-

sidered the swiftest Classic machine in Barry Hills's Lambourn garage (that honour belongs to Alboostan). Before yesterday his horizon stretched no further than the Italian Derby.

The first Chester Vase was a dead-heat decided by a toss of a coin and it now seems a similar process may be used to decide if Gulland runs in the Derby at all. "It's back to the drawing board and think,"

Wragg said. "It wasn't a very good race, a nonentity of a race. The chances are that we will go [to Epsom], but we'll certainly

The second secon

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Chester - 3.40

Altractive Crown 5-1 5-1 92 11-2

Each and a Bh Far odds, place 1.23

Candle Smile

C. Cord, H.-Wim Hill L.-Luchenberg, T.-Tota, B.-Strate

Chester - 3.10

का का का मा

land Star in the first ensured that the Manchester United trophy cabinet will have an additioo this seasoo (eveo if it is only a Cheshire cheese), and Robert Sangster registered yet another Deva winner with Casioo Captive. Sangster informed us that while last year there were only three juveniles of Group class at Mantoo there were at least 12 in this year's batch. Sheikh Mohammed, this is for

your atteotion. THE DERBY (Epsom, 8 June): Corat: 8-1 Border Arrow, 10-1 Gutand, 12-1 Hearni & Xess, 14-1 Greek Derner, Ladkrokser, 7-1 Gut-land, 10-1 Border Arrow, City Horsours & Hea-mi, 12-1 Greek Dernea, 18-1 Capri, Dr Fong & Seratoga Springs; William Hill: 5-1 Bor-der Arrow, 8-1 Hearm; 12-1 Xess, 14-1 City Horsours, Greek Dernes & Gulland, 18-1 Capri, 20-1 Dr Fong.

French raid for Godolphin

GODOLPHIN, oo a high fol- Rose. The only other overseas lowing Cape Verdi'o win in the acceptor is Aidan O'Brieo's 1.000 Guineas, have declared Kincara Palace in a race in three colts, Altibr, Bintang and Zaya, for the Poule d'Essai des Poulains (French 2,000 Guin-

A total of 18 stood their ground at yesterday's second acceptance stage for the race in which Criquette Head's unbeaten Prix de Fontainebleau winner, With The Flow, looks

NAP: State Fair (Chester 3.10) NB: Noble Demand (Chester 4.45)

which Prix de la Grotte winner Zalaiyka may start favourite. In the Poule d'Essai des suffering concussion following Pouliches, Godolphin are keep- a fall from The Whole Hog at

First show					Chester	
Chester — 2.10				<u> </u>	a 10 Five Of Snades (nb)	YPERION 3.45 Rambling Rose
Micris Aide	74	<u>51</u>		162	2.40 Bodfari Muka	4.15 Forest Call
Total	- [-		84	84	1 3 10 Wakeel	4.45 BOMBASTIC (nap)
Campo	91	10-1	31	84	Cond STALLS: m 2f 2m 2	f – stande side; rest – inside.
Magic Rainbour	91	76-1	91	81	DRAW ADVANTAGE: LOW NUMBERS I	enterio for innovetriding horses.
Musica Moss	81	91	81	10-1	eLeft-hand, tight, circular con A548. Ch	ester station 1m. ADMISSION: County E
Elen Kilin	10-1	91	101	11-1		i; Dee Stand £5; Course £3, CAR PARKS 84 (23.4%), J Beny 13-107 (12.1%), A Balls 84 (23.4%), J Beny 13-107 (12.1%), A Balls
Diseasion Blury	101	71-1	84	201	CLEADING TRAINERS: M SOULS IS	shop 10-54 (18-5%)
Five Of Species	11-1	104	84	18-1	ALEADING JOCKEYS: K Darley 15	-77 (208%), K Fellon 12-103 (11.7%), J

FDA%), B HURS 12-04 (1857%), B MCMARDON 12-04 (1857%).

@LEADING MOCKEYS: K Darley 15-77 (208%), K Fallon 12-103 (18.7%).

11-74 (14.9%), W R Swimburn 10-35 (26.6%), Pat Eddary 10-34 (18.5%).

BEANGLINTER: 138-321 (44.7%).

BEANGLINED FRIST TIME: None.

8 45-0 MAGE RANBOW 23 (0) 9" Tenteron in one in	_			
1 14- CMLY FOR GOLD (283) (C) (BF) (J Millians & S. Millians) J Berry 8 7 K. Durley 18 B. 2 140-45 MARTON MOSS (16) (D) (T H Bernett) T Emistry 8 5 K. Fallon 12 8 5 055-3 MARTOLES PRIDE (18) (K MacPherouri) F Calver 8 3 M. Day 8 9 4 30-430 DeMOLTTON AC (1) (D) (J Profit P Berry 8 11 A McCanthy (3) 9 V 9 4 1315 FAST FRANC (89) (D) (bit 0 M so 0 - Finites) 1 1 Macphero 8 11 D Holland 3 7 10-56 Margic RAMBOW (28) (D) (P T Ferrovick) M Bell 8 11 M Ferrovick 13 9 4 5-40 Margic RAMBOW (28) (D) (P T Ferrovick) M Bell 8 11 J Fortuse 11 1 3 6 6340-1 TORRENT (95) (D) (Mrs. J Hozelly 1 D Berron 6 11 J Fortuse 11 1 3 6 6340-1 TORRENT (95) (D) (Mrs. J Hozelly 1 D Berron 6 11 R Winston (9) 7 8 10 8-1 PPS SONG (28) (D) (C H (0 D W Sepheroron Lot J J Eyre 8 8 M J Knosen 10 8 1 101-96 CARAMBO (29) (D) (C H (0 D W Sepheroron Lot J J Eyre 8 8 M J Knosen 16 8 M Roberts 15 9 7 M Roberts 15 9 M Roberts 15 9 M Roberts 15 9 M Roberts 15	l	2.10	ROODEYE HANDICAP (CLASS C) £15,000	C4
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0 05-04 FIVE OF SPADES (18) (D) (B L Casabby H Paraly 6 11. 10 5-1 PIPS SOME (28) (D) (P J Shamata) D 7 Scargi 8 10. 10 5-1 PIPS SOME (28) (D) (C H O D W Sephsman Lot J I, Eyre 8 8	ı.		SANDERT MENT AND THE I HOSEIN TO RESERVE HILL	- II I A
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TOTAL TOTAL SECTION CAN AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND A				
A SAP SHAMMON BELLUI (19) (1) (DELINIO 1974 POLO - 100 POLO 1974 P	łā	-52205	BRANSTON BERRY (19) (D) (Diamond Pacing Ltd) J.L. Byroß B	M30 4 B

well drawn. Blunded Lane could be no people the selection of selection could be could be not caster (7) in March but showed plenty of people to lead until approaching the two-funding pole. He might reverse the form with Carambo and Branston Barry who were third and eighth. Only For Gold, the only course winner in the field of 15 - he took the huvenile contest on this card a year ago -must be legat on the right tick. Mandae Pride, a Pollestone nursery winner in September and third of 20 to Swino at Thirsk on his return, and Martin Moss, close-up behind in fifth at the Yorkshire track, are others for the state of the course of the selection. TORSENT

2.40 CAPITAL BANK MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) C4

-		7 5 10,000 Budea 5 10 31	-
-	_	ACE OF PARKES (J Hales) J Borry B 11.	
	•	BODFARI MUKA (20) (Bodieri Stud Ltd) 21-lie 8 11	
	~	CONNY LODGE (Lord Mostyri) J Berry B 11	K Darley 5
		COMMA CONTRACTOR METERAL & DOLLA D. II.	7.0
	65	JAMES OFF (16) (Mrs Ann Jarvis) A Jervis 8 11	D SPECIOLY (2) 10
	-	JUST ORANGE (6) (Mrs E A Dawson) P Evans 8 11	F Egun O
		LANDICAN LANE (4) (Lord Leverhulme) R Johnson Houghton	A H Li Cloid 4
	•	TOWNICON TAKE (4) (TOLD TEMBLITHING IN TOXABOLI LONGING	W Saller of
		MYTTOM'S MOMENT (G Mytton) A Bailey B 11	Limbil V
		NATHAN'S HERO (Mrs J Hughes) R Holinshead B 17	A McCarthy (3) 1
		PARISIAN BLUE (T Clarke) N Littmoden 8 11	
		BARROOM DEGE (1 ONEND) IS CHRISTON OF THE PROPERTY OF	TO-
		ROYAL ORIGINE (Mr & Mrs G Pricher) M Channon 0 11	(Win 2
		- 10 declared -	
		ID and an	

SETTING: 9-4 Bodfari Muko, 7-2 Ace Of Parkins, 4-1 Royal Origina, 13-2 Lettor's Montent, 9-1 Convey Lodge, 12-1 Jenos Dee, 14-1 Paristen Blue, 20-1 of 1997: Only For Gold 8 11 K Derloy 4-1 (J Berryl drawn (I) 7 pm PORM GUIDE

Bodiari Mulca was hampered at the start when besten a length and a querier by Queensland Star (winner here yesterday) on his introduction at Newmarket and he finished six lengths clear of the third. James Dee also found one too good in Deme Jude at Brighton after an umplaced debut run, while Landleon Lane shaped well when fourth to Chomper on his debut at Haydock on Saturday and represents the Lord Loventume-Fulke Johnson Houghton team which has done well here over the years. However, this may result in a winning start for ACE OF PARKES, who halls from the Queensland Star yard of Jack Berry. By Teences out of Summerhil Spruce, he is a full-brother to My Melody Parkes and helf-brother to Lucky Parkes and Bella Parkes, so he should be able to go a bit.

3.10 TOTE CHESTER CUP (HANDICAP) C4

= 16 degaged = BETTING: 5-1 Tumpole, 11-2 Top Cees, 5-1 Forgle, 5-1 Stancy In Court, 8-1 Ivor's Futter, 10-1 High Intrigue, 11-1 Dato Star, 12-1 Mittalk, 14-1 Cyrlen, State Felx, 16-1 Cloted Inspector, We-head 20-3 Old Remed 25-1 Filtring Around, Lengto, 20-1 others.

1997: Top Cese 7 8 11 J Fortune 11-2 (Mrs. J Rentsdert) drawn (6) 12 ran FORM OUIDE Top Cese, where of the Coral Cup at the Chekenham Festival, became only the third Top Coes, where of the Coral Cup at the Chebenham Festival, became only the third this century to win the Chester Cup for a second time when stamming Etterby Park for langths 12 months ago - following Chivatrous (1822-23) and See Pigeon (1977-76) and hes as good a chance as any after his third of 21 behind Raise A Princa over an inadequate mile and a half at Newmentet, He is 8th higher than last year. However, it may pay to side with DATO STAR, a triented type even if still a matter on the Flat. Melcolin Jefferson's charge, successful in the Chebenham Festival bumper in 1995, was last sten on the Flat when a creditable fourth of 21 behind Citizor Fox in the November Handicap at Dancester the following year and fix ran an absolute binder in the same event the year before when besten a length and a half by Snow Princess - concoding her 18th. Dato Star, who came home by 20 lengths from Collier Bay - subsequent impartal Cap, County Hurdle and Section Champion Hurdle vitor Blowing Wind third - in the Chempion Hurdle Wind third - in the Chempion Hurdle Wind third - in the Chempion Hurdle Hurdle Trial at Haydock in Jenuary, lost ell chancs in the hurdling crown proper when losing his footing at the tith flight. The seven-year-dehay to tackle this trip but will have no problem with it and Keren Follon - who was on Top Cees in 1965 - takes the mount. Tumpole got home by a length and three-quarters from Top Cees in the 31 numer Ceasewitch in October with hor's Flutter eighth and Cloud Inspector miles behind. Tumpole put up a polished performance under 10st at Doncester on his return, defeating Pabilion a neck but Top Cees, with a 6th acknowled to the supplied to reverse Ceaserwitch in Non. Nor's Flutter comes here in cracking form and promising apprentice Neil Pollard, who was aboard for both wins, again takes off 7th.

3.45 SHADWELL STUD CHESHIRE OAKS (Listed) (CLASS A) £40,000 3YO fillies (C4 im 3f 79yds

FORM GUIDE

RAMBELING ROSE, soven lengths clear of the third when chasing home yesterclay's Chester Vase victor Guiland at the end a helf lengths at Porteriract in October, can show the way home here. The daughter of Cadesax Seneroux got off the mark at Nottinghem the time before despits being easy to back and site had been placed in both proceding races, lifsh invader Attractive Crown, 8 Leopardstown soorer last term, was beeten more then time lengths by 1,000 Guinees runner-up Shahtoush at the Curragh last month on her return, following with a ten-length fourth to Asio in a Lasted heat on testing ground at Leopardstown. High And Low was besten more then two lengths by Scorred (impressive winner of both starts this term) at Doncaster last back-and on her sincle start to date. She comes form a stable with an excellant record at the track. ry Scorned (impressive winner of both starts this term) at Doncester last back-end on her single start to date. She comes form a stable with an excellent record at the track.

4.15 EVELYN DELVES BROUGHTON MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £10,000 3YO filles 71

FORM GIME

Robert Sangster, who has had nearly winners at this meeting over the years - Casino Captive went in for him yesterday - and can lend this with MUSICAL TWIST. The Woodman filly was probably unsuited by the must when only fifth (at seven) to Deuming Lady in the Fred Derling States at Newburry on her return but had shaped with plenty of promise on her single start less term when a length-and-a-had second to Shimose at the same course in August, Lack Berry runs Bluebarry Parkes (Dernyl Holand) and Yanomani (Vewin Derley), runniers-up lest month respectively behind Sarah Stotes at Pontefract and Easter Ogil at Beverley.

4.45 CHESHIRE REGIMENT HANDICAP (CLASS C) £12,000 added 3YO 1m 4f 68yds 2-TI BANSAN (41) (D Sort) J.L Eye 0.7

12-TI BANSAN (41) (D Sort) J.L Eye 0.7

40:22 (NOBLE DEMAND (USA) (20) (Ms Alam Res) Mrs J Parraden 0.6

322-1 ROMANJ (20) (Sased Munera) M Johnston 9.1

42-6 (LORY OF GROSS-SHOR (14) (EF) (E Samplen) P Chaptel-Hyam 8.1

322-3 SPEAKER'S CHART (19) (K Abdulah) R Cradion 0.0

322-3 OUTCH LAD (13) (0) (SP) (S Dem) M Komplen 8.6

32-23 OUTCH LAD (13) (0) (SP) (S Dem) M Komplen 8.6

050- LORD WARFORD (201) (P Richarden) G Balding 8.0

0-0211 CNDER HELLS (20) (D) (Basy) M W Emistry 7.2

1 00-0 High AND MIGHTY (22) (Straigh Michamed) J Gosden 7.11

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

3.10: The admirable Top Cees attempts to win this prize for the third time. The eight-year-old defied a hike in the weights to take this marathon in soft ground a year ago. up the handicap, he cannot be ruled out. WAKEEL, Cyrian and State Fair finished second, third and fourth respectively behind Assured Gable at Epsom two weeks ago and

ity again. Cyrian, though, is poorly drawn on the outside. Perhaps Wakeel can come out best once more because at Epsom he was forced to race wide, on slower ground.

3.45: Due South has strong claims on form but the Ed Dunlop yard has vet to hit form this season. The Irish challenger, Attractive Crown, was only fourth of nine runners at Leopardstown last time out but that was a Listed race and this filly represents a shrewd stable. RAM-BLING ROSE will be at short odds but she looks a cut above today's rivals. She won at Nottingham in September and then ran Gulland to two and a half lengths in a Listed event at Pontefract. She was no match for the winner that day but kept on strongly, with the rest well beaten.

41 RED SYMPHONY (11) (0) J Berry 712..... 0 PETITE SABO (40) M British 710......

eas) at Longchamp oo Sunday.

the best local hope.

ing their options open having left Exeter yesterday. in Asfurah, Bahr and La Nuit Yesterday's results, page 28

RICHARD EDMONDSON

Norman Williamsoo was stood down for 48 hours after

HYPERION 2.00 Thornaby Girl 2.30 Summerhill Special 3.00 Slipstream 3.35 Ballantrae Boy 4.05 Howles Choice 4.35 Feel A Line	O SCHUIDS SWIET (BD) J J DNR 7 1	13 BS0066 TOP PHIZE Minimum: 7st 10th. True t BETTING: 9-4 All Oc., 4- 12-1 Linele Doug, Noted
GOING: Good STALLS: Round course - inside; straight course far side, DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 5f; High from 7f to 1m 4f. Flight-hand ovel course with light turns; Course is 5m E of Edinburgh on A1, Edinburgh station 5m. AD-MISSION: Cub \$12; fattersals £6 (QAPe and unemployed £3). Accompositiod under-18s free. CAR PARK: Free. LEADING THAINETS; J Berry — 35 winners from 182 runners gives a success ratio of 23%; Mas M Reveloy 18 from 76 (£5%); benys 5mith 9 from 67 (£4%); T 0 Berron 8 from 40 (20%). LEADING JOCKEYS: J Carroll 22 wine from 155 rides gives a success ratio of 143%; L Charnost 15 from 19 (£2%); P Feesey 8 from 78 (£01%); T Williams 8 from 108 (74%). FAVOURITES: 177 wins in 422 races (419%). EINNEERED FIRST TIME: None. LONG-DISTANCE RUNNER: Tom Morgan (435) sent 572 miles.	1 030-13 POSSEL (USA) (LT) (CD) P Montain 58 8	3.35 BRUNT 24,000 1 000-1 SARNOCKY 2 020-05 ANDITHER IS 8 6000 PALLINE 4 00-02 BOWCLIFFE 5 4-045 PRESENTIN 9 00-07 PENNY WH 9 500-0 RAGTININE C Misimum 2-1 Deliantos 5-1 Another Episode, 7-
2.00 PINKIE PILLARS CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2YO 5/ 1 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (9) (D BH) P Hestern 91. C Lowster (s) 5 1 THORNAEY GRALT O Barron 84	3 0.8222 ALL ON (9) (C) J Helberton 7 86	4.05 WALLY EN STA 1 332-25 CRCUTTED 2 0-00 GINNER MO 3 0440-4 HOWES CH

8 432200 NOTATION (27) O Crapman 4 8 3	,
10 400 MARKAPEN (18) CAllen 47 13N Cartale 12	
11 00/90- MIR MOREARTY (J95) S.R. Bowring 7.7 11 Date Gibson 10	
12 05480 NORTHERN MAESTRO (J11) Mg M Pevelsy 4710_T Williams 0	٠
13 B50086 TOP PRIZE (9) (D) M Britain 10 7 10	
- 13 declared -	
Minimum: 7st 10th. True weighes: Northern Mensiro 7st 7th, Yop Prize 7st 7th. BETTING: 9-4 Ali Oc., 4-1 Northern Metho, 7-1 Delly Boy, 8-1 Silpstream, 12-1 Llucie Doug, Notation, Mr Markerty, Yop Prize, 14-1 others	
3.35 BRUNTON HALL HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,000 added 5f	
1 0080-1 GARNOCK VALLEY (27) (CD) J Berry 810 0_C London (5) 6 B	

- B geomeng -http://enny.Whistle 7st 8tb, Regime Compiel 7st 5tb, e Boy, 5-2 Carnock Velley, 7-2 Bouchitte Carange, -1 Presentinaet, 12-1 Penny Whistle, 33-1 others YFORD MEDIAN AUCTION MAID-

4 630-4 MALIAR (6) J Piz-Gerick 8 811 — Benedichte Historisch (5) 7
5 LEEPY BABY | Semple 3 8 11 — D Griffiths (5) 8
5 305- SROWBALLS (198) Miss. L Perrett 3 8 11 — Down McKenwn 8
7 0 WHIRLWIND (20) C Thomton 8 8 11 — Down McKenwn 8
8 00-065 MCAFRE PRINCESS (5) W Kemp 8 8 8 — L Charnock 1
9 0 SHARP GAYLE (12) | Semple 3 9 8 — D Gulland 4
— D declared —
BETTENS: 9-4 Circuition, 11-4 Majlar, 7-2 Howles Choice, 5-1 Snowballs, 8-1 Ginorir Morting, 26-1 Whitherlad, Ngauce Princess, 33-1 others 4.35 WHITELAW HANDICAP (CLASS F) Pressey (3) 2 BETTING: 11-2 Up to Flames, 5-1 Nizapen Rocks, 7-1 Feel A Line, 5-1 Ins-Problemon 8 pulsive Air; 10-1 Amid The Stare, Spanish Verdict, 12-1 others

14 -P3RP3 WHO'S YOUR MAN (11) (U) Mrs N Sharpe 8 12 0 ...

630-4 NAJJAR (6) J PigGorald & S ti ... Persedichia Haberman (5)

(CLASS E) £4,000 added 2YO 57 1 03 ERECUTIVE EVENT (9) (D BF) P Haskim 91 C Lowther (3) 5 2 THORNARY GRIL TO Benon 84	5 9896 ROSA ROYALE (225) W Storny 4 8 1	1 S32-25 CIRCUTTEER (S) JBarry 5 91 1 1 2 2 0 0 0 GINNER MORRS (12) C Book 3 8 1 1 1 1 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Chepstow Hyperion 2.20 Kilbride Laid 2.50 Dovetto 3.20 Choisty 3.55 Woodstock Wanderer 4.25 Owentowee 4.55 Bullens Bay GDING: Good (Good to Soft petches). Left-hand, undulating course with run-in of 240yds. Course is on A466. Chepston station im. ADMISSION: Cub CKI, Tatersells Eto (CAPs ES). CAR PARK: Free. LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe — 46 winers' from 208 runners gives a success ratio of 2219; N Teinston-Davies 22 from 18 (186%); P Nichrolls 20 from 85 (235%); D Nichrolson 18 from % (243%). LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 34 wins from 127 rides gives a success ratio of 265%; R Dumsoody 27 from 129 (209%); C Liewellyn 17 from 59 (172%); R Johnson 13 from 73 (173%). FAVOURITES: T71 wins in 45; races (412%). BLINNERED FHST TIME: Dutch (250); Wito's Your Man (visorad)	3 8-AJEO JACK (55) J Tuck 8 11 8	3.55 SANDRINGHAM SELLING 1 5022F1 WOODSTOCK WANDERER (25) P Bowen 8 2 3038 WOT FORGOTTEN (29) (8F) R Hoad 4 11 8 3 50122 KREEF (8) P Carls 6 11 6 4 5210P SPRAL RYER (14) M Uster 5 11 0 0 50225 GOLDEN LLY (17) K Burks 5 10 9. 1 45 HAWAMA RESERVE (213) Mrs L Richards 4 10 8. 8 407000 DITOTO (51) R BURKS 8109F (21) I George 4 10 8. 8 407000 DITOTO (51) R BURKS 810 1. 10 570034 BRGWIG (49) GL Moors 5 10 8. 11 00P304 REMEMBER STAR (12) A 0 Smith 5 10 0 2 00-745 FRANKE HARRY (26) A Cardi 0 10 0 Minimum: 10st Time Heights: Henomber Star 9st 730, Fa BETTING: 9-2 Kreef, 5-1 Woodstock Woodstark, 5-1 Not tumes Rose, Bignell, 8-4 Hevans Reserve, 10-1 Spiral
(425), Northern Star (455).	1 29551P CHERRYMUT (34) (D) P Nicholb S 128. Mr J Tizzard (3)	1 1400P1 OWENEWEE (15) (C) R Ainer 7 127

3.20 HIGHGROVE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £10,500 added 3m

1 2PERF CHERRYMUT (34) (D) P Alcholo 9 £8. Mr J Tizzard (5)
2 3EPU (INCICALLOCI (55) (D) J Forg 8 11 4. A P McCoy
3 P2PF PEREE (37) (P) F Bosen 11 13 A P McCoy
4 4PEM4 FRAZER ISLAND (34) (C) (D) R Rose 9 D £ L Aspoil (3)
5 11533 SPARHLING COME (22) (C) (B) P Mass V Wilsons 9 D D . ARP TIME ENOUGH (50) C Brooks 9 D 8 S McMell
7 2FIFP (10517 (18) (D) H Haynes 8 D 8 S S McMell
8 267412 (SHENN) PONGO (12) (B) P Walter D D 3. R McChall (5)
8 267412 (SHENN) PONGO (12) (B) P Walter D D 3. R McChall (5)
9 3121US WELL TIMED (21) (D) R Forst 8 D 1 . J Front
D 3121US WELL TIMED (21) (D) R Forst 8 D 1 . J Front
D 3121US WELL TIMED (21) (D) R Forst 8 D 1 . J Front
D 3121US WELL TIMED (21) (D) R Forst 8 D 1 . J Front
D 3121US WELL TIMED (21) (D) R Forst 8 D 1 . J Front
D 3121US WELL TIMED (21) (D) R Forst 8 D 1 . J Front
D 3121US WELL TIMED (21) (D) R Forst 8 D 1 . J Front
D 3121US WELL TIMED (21) (D) R Forst 8 D 1 . J Front
D 3121US WELL TIMED (21) (D) R Forst 8 D 1 . J Front
D 3121US WELL TIMED (21) (D) R Toront One 8 D 0 . D Gallagher
- 11 declared - 11 declared - 11 declared - 12 Front
Minimus weight: 10st Time hand(app weight: Forst of Armaco Sat 8D .

BETTING: 7-2 Freddie Muct, 5-1 Frazer Inland, Spatiding Cose, 8-1 inchestilisch, 8-1 Well Timed, Cherryton, 10-1 General Posto, 12-1 Others (CLASS B) £10,500 added 3m

G HANDICAP 41 110vds ___C Licensity n &

4.25 JORROCKS NOVICE HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 3m

4.55 SOUTH WEST AMATEURS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) 23,000 added 3m

18 P-JUGS FEARLESS WONDER (8) R Baler 7 10 7 ... Miles K Di Marte (7)

— 18 declared --BETTING: 8-1 Seize The Day, 7-1 Darring Bridge, 8-1 Fountain Bid, 10-1 Bulleus Bay, Galetacori Jene, Spring Grans, Milkmount, 12-1 others

Uttoxeter	ı
HYPERION 5.50 Rusty Fellow 6.20 Charlistiona 6.50 Lor	ď

2.20 BALMORAL NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 4YO 2m 4f 110yds

33301 KURNDE LAD (15) (OD) O Nitrolson 11 10. R. Johanon 6221P RAINBOW STAR (23) (B) M Fige 11 5. A P McCoy 2362 WALK ON BY (P28) J King 11 0. C Lienethyn 403905 ZAFARIELI (18) J Jerkins 11 0. P Hide -4 declared --BETTING: 5-4 Kilbride Lad, 2-1 Rainbow Star, 3-1 Walk On By, 18-1 Zellerelli

2.50 BUCKINGHAM NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 2m 110yds 1 1-HSP BRANELE-RIL DUKE (65) (D) Mes V Williams B 11 (D. S Kelly (7) 2 2/46F MACY (67) R Disker 5 11 8.

Relic 7.20 Easy Listening 7.50 Oban 8.20 Quite GOING: Good

GOING: Good.

Left-hand course, Run-in of 170yd.

Course is SE of town near B5017. Utiloseer station adjoins oburse.

Course is SE of town near B5017. Utiloseer station adjoins oburse.

ADMISSIONE Club 2:5 (CAPs Etg.); Testersalis 2:0 (CAPs 27); Centre of course 25. CAR PARK: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS: O Nicholanon — 23 winners from 108 numers grees a success ratio of 213%; K Bailey 21 from 116 (81%); N Twiston-Davies 20 from 105 (19%).

LEADING JOCKETS: A P McCory 28 wins from 102 rides gives a success ratio of 275%; N Williamson 21 from 132 (159%); R a success ratio of 275%; N Williamson 21 from 132 (159%); R a success ratio of 275%; N Williamson 21 from 134 (155%).

FAVOURITES: 259 wins in 710 races (375%).

ELRIKERED FIRST TIME: Cordial Knight (820).

5.50 A W STOKES DRUMS NOVICE HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,000 3m 2f POWDP CANSTER CASTLE (11) JE Price 10 12 0 Jak 0 Sharlock (7)
2 129-2 LENWYCHE GATE (17) G Beach 11 20 Jak 10 Jackson (7)
3 129-1 RED RESEL (11) T Welford 8 20 Jak 10 Wilson (5)
4 11329-3 RUSTY FELLOW (7) R Shall 8 20 Jak 10 Jackson (7)
5 POSISS WARNER FORPLEASURE (12) ELee 2 2 0 Jackson (7)

6.20 HOUGHTON VAUGHAN SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (G) 52,000 2m DASE RAGAMUFFIN ROMEO (F32) (D) H Colingidge 0 11 8.

50:00 COAST ALONG (22) (CD) F Bevan 0 11 4. — W Worthington PO-96 STAR OF DAVID (83) (D) Ms A Johnson 10 11 1.

Mr 2 Danack (S) B

5 PO-86 STAR OF DAVID (83) (0) Mrs A Johnson 10 11 1

8 3-6500 CHARLISTICHA (110) (0) J Dodds 7 10 5 Mr L Temple (7)

7 005004 SINKY (11) (87) F JOGES 5 10 3 R Johnson 2

7 005004 SINKY (11) (87) F JOGES 5 10 3 R Johnson 2

8 0002 CORDMAL KNEIGHT (ISSA) (4) C Moriock 5 10 1 D Hoges 8

9 0002 CORDMAL KNEIGHT (ISSA) (4) C Moriock 5 10 1 D Hoges 8

0 0-P1P TILDOR PALCON (4) P Seadey 5 10 0 Gay Lyons COLUMN (10) P COLUMN (10) P SEADEY 5 10 0 D PERSON (86) (0) J Hospitar 8 10 0 J D Person 1 C 00090 GALAXY RAIN (23) (2) J Hospitar 7 (2) N Williamson 3 10 D Person 1 GALAXY RAIN (23) (2) J Hospitar 7 (2) N Williamson 3 10 D Person 1 GALAXY RAIN (23) (2) J Hospitar 7 (2) N Williamson 3 10 D Person 1 GALAXY RAIN (23) (2) J Hospitar 7 (2) N Williamson 3 10 D Person 1 GALAXY RAIN (23) (2) J Hospitar 7 (2) N Williamson 3 10 D Person 1 GALAXY RAIN (23) (2) J Hospitar 7 (2) N Williamson 3 10 D Person 1 GALAXY RAIN (23) (2) J Hospitar 7 (2) N Williamson 3 10 D Person 1 GALAXY RAIN (23) (2) J Hospitar 7 (2) N Williamson 3 10 D Williamson 3

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6.50 BRADSHAW BROS OPEN HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £3,000 4m 2f - 12211 LORD RELIC (22) (C) 8 Brodomer 2 12 7 _ Mr 8 Durack (C) 21-443 THE MALAKARMA (7) (CD) the C Belloy 12 12 7

7.20 COUTTS & CO HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m 1 NASO CRICLES STAR (50) (D) O Netroboro 5 120 M. Johnson 1 10 Scales STAR (50) (D) O Netroboro 5 120 M. Johnson 2 502302 EASY LISTENING (34) (CD) N Hawles B 18 S. A. F. McCoy V. B. F. 120 HALOMA (55) (D) C Morbot 8 11 M. D Gallingher 4 000270 FRURLY SHAFF (50) (D) J. Marcin 5 10 11 M. W. Williamson 0 02504 SANT CRE. (USA) (22) (CD) F. Jorden 10 10 M. Aspell (3) 7 200-2 HONEYSCHOICE (55) At Hummard 5 10 1 M. S. Durack (3) 8 352343 DESGO (125) (CD) M. Firman 5 10 0 Marcin 5 10 1 M. R. Firmant 4 Marcinco weight: Total hardings weight: Diago 8st 72b. BETTING: 7-2 Easy Listening, 9-2 Wesley's Lad, 5-1 Chous Star, Honeyscholce, 7-1 Halona, Diago, 6-1 Salnt Clei, 10-1 Feithy Starp systholce, 7-1 Halona, Diago, 6-1 Salnt Clei, 10-1 Feithy Starp.

7.50 LUCIA FARMER HANDICAP CHASE

7.50 LUCIA FARMER HANDICAP CHASE
(CLASS D) 25,000 added 2m 4f
1 /-35 LRRYSLORD (142) (C) (D) P Microle 8 20 ... T.J Marphy
2 4965 - MR. JAMBOREE (e11) (C) (D) I Williams 12 19 0 ... R Persent
8 2-490 OBAM (T) (CD) J Mes H Kright 8 11 8 ... G Bendiny
4 42902 MESTER ODDY (20) J King 2 11 4 ... J Culloy
5 25/4P1 GLAMARGITZ (T) (C) (D) P Delton 8 10 13 ... A P McCoy
8 JM-P CLAVERHOUSE (T) (CD) J Progressi 9 10 2J R Kwellenston
7 30LES LOBSTER COTTAGE (T) (D) K Bally 10 10 11. N Williamston
8 35/102 TROUVAILE (22) A Turnel 7 10 8 ... R Johnson
8 31UP3 PRO BONO (2) W Cauchard 8 10 1 ... C Lienweige
10 -2236 DANDE RIP (61) (D) A Carrol 17 10 0 ... D Gallagher
BETTING: 5-2 Gisronnylliz, 3-1 Mister Oddy, 0-1 Larry's Lord, 8-1 Lobster Cottage, Trouvelle, 12-1 Otten, Pro Bisco, Densile Imp, 23-1 others.

8.20 DAVID BODEN 'BIRTHDAY BOY'
NOVICE HURDLE (E) 23,000 3tr 110yds

-13 declared --15 declared --15 declared --15 declared --16 declared --17 Declared Lively, -17 Declared Lively, -18 Declared

Wetherby

HYPERION 6.05 Alcalali 6.35 Pure Value 7.05 Flat Top 7.35 Smuggling 8.05 Green Green Desert 8.35

GOING: Good.

Left-hand oval circuit. Puri-in of 200yds sightly uphil.

Course is NE of town on B1224 near junction of ASS and A1.

ADMISSION. Cab. 215; hittersels 29; Course 23 (AAPs £2), Accompanied under 185 free. CAR PARTIC: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS: Mirs M Rewelsy — 4; whereas from 186 runners gives a success ratio of 209%; T Essterby 24 from 100 (24%); D Nicholson 19 from 75 (255%); Mirs 5 Smith 17 from 108 (557%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: L. Wyer 42 wins from 170 rides gives a success ratio of 247%; P Mirses 39 from 170 (229%); A Dobbin 21 from 127 (16.5%); R Gentity 16 from 146 (11%).

FAVOURTIES: 209 wins in 492 races (£25%).

BLINKERED FRIST TIME: Ensemid Cluster (805).

6.05 SENIOR SERVICE CONDITIONALS NOVICE HURDLE (E) 23,000 4YO 2m — 13 declared — #STTING: 9-2 Alcainii, 11-4 Island Senctuary, 7-2 Sparky, 8-1 Neronius, 10-1 Freedom Cirence, 14-1 Winth Symphony, 18-1 others

6.35 HMS CERES NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) 25,000 added 3m 1f

7.05 WETHERBY RN ASSOCIATION HAND-ICAP CHASE (C) \$7,000 2m 4f 110yds

- 20 declared -SETTING: 8-1 The Stow Burn, 7-1 Chrusson Stick, Orange Imp, 0-1 What A Tide, Macranish Ofesteem, 10-1 Buckley House, 12-1 others

8.35 HMS BRAMHAM HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m

Ser 100, Spac Windows Ser 70. BETTING: 7-2 Wyngerd Kolghi, 8-2 Executive Design, Durano, 5-1 Well Appointed, 8-1 Glacupia, 7-1 Overamen, 12-1 Kernel, Signa Wileless

Higgins the protégé leads the youth movement

By Guy Hodgson

IT IS NOT unknown for a prominent person to sow the seeds of his or her downfall, it is almost a cliché. Alcohol, sex, drugs or power, the fatal instruments are diverse. Io Stepheo Heodry's case the weapoo was tolerance.

Perhaps Hendry suspected John Higgins would one day become his nemesis - there are vicarious delights to be derived in a protégé's progress after all and cultivated the youngster

ever. There will be little pleasure lurking within the six-times world champion this morning.

Hendry had set his sights oo being the world No 1 throughout the 1990s but has been displaced by Higgins, whose defeat of holder Ken Doherty in the fioal of the Emhassy World Championship late on Monday edged him just ahead of his erstwhile master. Now the appren-

tice has taken over. When I first turned pro 1 practised with Stephen a lot," Higgins said, "and he used to give me some right hammerings day who used to pester him for after day. I'm not like the rest, I practice games in Stirling. It is know first hand just how good be unlikely he expected to be over- can be. At the time you don't

hauled quite so quickly, how- think it's doing you any good, but it helped me immensely.

Higgins, from Wishaw in Scotland, is only the third player since Steve Davis began his monopoly in the early 80s to be the world No 1, and there was a unmistakable sense of change at the Crucible. Hendry, 29, now represents the old guard; the 22-year-old "The game's in a healthy

state in terms of the oumber of oew faces coming through," Doherty, 28, said after his 18-12 defeat, "kids who aren't afraid to perform on the hig stage. It's getting tougher, not easier. I'm becoming an old man in this game oow, playing all these 19 and 20 year olds."

tournaments this season and is extent that Doyle described his and gone into the dressing room in the vanguard of this youth movement, had a standard introduction to the game. Television sparked an interest that was farmed when his parents bought him his first snooker table as child. At 14 he was learning at the feet of Alan McManus, now ranked eighth in the world. in Glasgow before moving to Stirling where Hendry regu-

Higgins became part of lan Doyle's Cuemasters management stable hut left because he felt he was lacking attention, such was the focus on Hendry. At the time the parting was oot particularly harmonious, hut

larly hammered him into shape.

former charge as "one of the nicest young men you could wish

Nice, but tough too. You do not record 14 centuries in the world championships -- a record ... unless you can set your mind on a rigid course. It spoke volumes for his purpose, too, that he could race ahead in the final session after Doherty had eroded his early advantage to 13-11.

The crucial frame was the 28th when Doherty was in the colours but went in-off after potting the brown. "I didn't mean to hit the brown that hard," be said, "but

for the mid-session break at 15-13 I'd still been in with a chance. At 16-12 I had to win the iast session 6-0 or 6-1."

Instead Higgins finished it swiftly, reaping a £220,000 first prize plus £9,500 for the highest break. "I am surprised to have . got here so quickly," he said. "I thought I was capable of winning the world title but not now."

Once he realised he was ahead of his schedule emotions flooded over him and he completed his final century in some numoil Like his namesake, Alex -- who he is not re-I was trying to get the rest out of lated to in terms of blood or the way and I got into the white temperament - he collected

Higgins, who has woo four relations have been rebuilt to an too much. If I had won that frame the trophy with tears running

Can be now dominate the start of the new millennium like Heodry had dooe? "No," he replied. "The competitions too strong. I'm capable of taking more than my fair share of tournaments but no-one could win everything like Stephen. 1 m 22 and I don't think I'll go backwards, I'll go forwards and people will have to improve with me. I'm sure the standard will be better in 10 years."

Snooker has moved on so much in the last decade that that thought is frightening. It is a much quoted statistic but worth repeating: Alex Higgins managed just 45 centuries in com-



petition in a long career, John Higgins, who has been professional for less than six years, has

managed over 100.
EMBASSY WORLD CHAM
Sheffield (Fixe): J Higgins (St
herty (In) 18-12. Frame score

Wigan

to stop

Smyth

leaving

WIGAN will today block Rob

Smyth's hopes of a big money

move to play regular first-team

rugby with the London Broncos.

Londoo had offered the winger,

curreotly in the Alliance team

at Central Park, a three-year

cootract at twice his present

But the Wigan coach, John

the light of defeat at Wemb

Monie, assessing his squad in

ley, wants to keep the 21-

year-old local product, who

spent all of last season on the

Wigan that Leeds are not de-

riving an unfair advantage for

the match between the two

clubs next Friday by loaning

their suspended prop, Barrie

would have been available for

the match in any event, the only

difference being that he can now

have a run out for Bramley

Sheffield Eagles, whose civic

reception today has been post-

poned because of a double

booking, will parade the Silk

Cut Challenge Cup for their

supporters at the Super League

match against Wigan this Sat-

The League has reacted to

Becker

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Acceptance

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against Workington.

urday.

The ex-Wigan forward.

McDermott, to Bramley.

The Rugby League has told

injured list.

Tide turns at last for Sussex

By David Llewellyn

Sussex 302-9 Glamorgan 299 Sussex win by three runs

IF ANYONE at the Couoty this cliff-hanger it will be a surprise. Sussex finally hroke their one-day duck, hut only just. They appeared to have this Bensoo and Hedges Cup zonal match in the bag after reaching within three runs of their highest total in this competition, before whipping out half a dozen opposition batsmen.

meant Sussex would oot qualify for the knock-out stages, whatever the outcome yesterday, making it the 11th time in Cup. So it was no great surprise coup de grâce.

They only ended their generosity in the final over when the runs of beating them. By theo, reached a personal best in the competition and was within sight regain the strike, backed up a son, who took 4 for 53.

Hampshire from a five-wicket

The West Indian Test all-

rounder took 26 off the final

over of his side's inniogs, sent

down by the England seamer

posted 169 for 9 from their 50

Cricket scoreboard

yard too far and the alert Jason Lewry ran him out. Next ball, Alex Edwards sent down a slow full-toss. Watkin missed it but the ball did its work and Sussex were home with three balls to spare.

1t has taken Sussex 860 runs in their three Cup matches to date to reach this minor landmark, but their cootinued fail-Ground has any nails left after ure to dismiss, or eveo cootain. oppositioo batsmen must he a worry to their coach, Peter Moores. At least he can now conceotrate on this aspect after announcing his retirement from the game yesterday.

Cottey, at 5ft 4in one of smallest players oo the county circuit, was a veritable Colossus as he laid into the labouring Sus-Defeat in all their previous sex attack. He scored at a run a one-day matches this seasoo ball, hitting four sixes and three fours as he matched the acknowledged one-day hatting maestro Michael Bevan. The left-handed Australian was also 12 seasons that they have failed stranded just short of his century, to reach the quarter-finals of the his 95 equalling his Cup best. His was a telling contribution, and to see them play the Good oo a pitch bursting with runs his Samaritan and throw runs back 10 overs for 40 runs was what Minor Counties 51 at grateful Glamorgan wheo gave him the edge when it came they should have delivered the to the Gold Award.

But the match was littered with a welter of significant individual cootributions. Sussex's Welsh county were within four captain, Chris Adams, underlined his magnificent hatting the diminutive Tony Cottey had form with 81, again at a run a hall: Glamorgan's pinch-hitter, Robert Croft, scored his third of what would have been his successive Cup fifty, as well as maideo one-day hundred. That a savage 45 from Waqar Younis, was when the wheels came off. who had earlier taken a Cup best Steve Watkin played a ball to 4 for 43. His effort was matched mid-on. Cottey, 96 and eager to by Sussex's veteran Mark Robin-

NIXON McLEAN'S savage overs after winning the toss.

batting onslaught failed to save That might have proved a chal-

defeat to Somerset in the Beo- home captain Peter Bowler.

son and Hedges Cup tie at with 41, and Richard Harden

Andy Caddick, as the visitors over spell of 2 for 10, during



New low point for Minor Counties

Lancashire 53-3

LANCASHIRE'S Gleo Chapple cleaned up with remarkable figures of 5 for 7 off five overs at Eastbourne in 1978. as the Minor Counties slumped to an all-time Bensoo aod Hedges Cup low at Lakenham

The 24-year-old former Eng- juries. land A seamer, fully fit after a double hernia operation in the six Minors' wickets as the part- tential. timers collapsed to 52 all out.

with only 19 oo the board.

McLean was not even facing

wheo Caddick began the last

over of Hampshire's innings,

with the visitors struggling on

142 for 9. Kevan James took a

single off the first ball and the

All were froot-foot shots

next five deliveries went for

four, six, four, six, six.

It was their worst-ever per-formance in all their different could have played and missed move the adventurous David mer Lancashire player Marcus ering their previous worst total of 63, made by Minor Couoties (East) against Sussex

Chapple, whose selection as the Gold Award winner was a formality, said: "I had a poor year in 1997, injuries or no in-

"I'm starting off from scratch this seasoo and all I can winter, pocketed five of the last do is try and play to my full po-

Somerset survive McLean onslaught as Bowler and Harden dig in

into the oearby churchyard.

Hampshire oeeded the late

boost from McLean after see-

ing their early batsmen perish

to loose shots. Somerset bowled

tightly and there were two wick-

Ahmed, Marcus Trescothick 95 for 8.

backed up by some excellent, season batting form, 170 to

ets each for Rose, Mushtag

and Adrian Pierson. They were

Fall: 1-0, 2-19, 3-39, 4-77, 5-80, 6-88, 7-83, 8-85, 9-132.

Bowling: Rose 8-2-10-2; Caddick 10-1-60-0; Mushtaq 9-0-33-2; Reeve 6-0-18-0; Trescothick 9-0-28-2; Plerson 8-1-19-2.

PSSCURACY
SOMERSET
P O Bowler c Aymes b Udal
M Burns c & b McLean
R J Harden law b James
G D Rose law b Stephenson
R J Thurner law b Stephenson
R J Thurner law b Stephenson

M E Trescothick not out

Extres (Ib7, wfl, nb2) Total (for 5, 43.3 overs) ..

Giles White and Jason Laney deposited the ball over long oo

which he dismissed the openers and with the biggest hit McLean fielding, including a stunning win was on formality, especial-

"Everything went for us with

guises in the competition, low-rather than nick catches to the Pennett. Sharp, now of Cumberland,

The Minors, who made Lancashire sweat for victory at Walsall last season, were inserted for the third successive game, and were always up against it oo a hard, greeo wicket offering pace and

They folded from 24 for I, with Michael Athertoo aod Andrew Flintoff sharing five slip catches between them, and Peter Martin also cooly cintch-

extra-cover catch by the coach

Dermot Reeve, who went full

length to his right to dismiss Pe-

ter Hartley for 20. James was at

fault with the run-out of Adri-

an Aymes for a duck, hut re-

deemed himself with 33 not out

after Hampshire had slipped to

With Somerset's poor early-

Wasim Akram, Martin and

Ian Austin also exploited cooditions tailor-made for the seamers, and only the Norfolk opener Carl Rogers got into double figures for the Minors with 11. Left with only 53 to win,

Lancashire eased to their second victory in three Bensoo and Hedges Cup games for the loss of three wickets.

Flintoff weot without scoring when he top-edged pulling in the 14th over.

ly when they lost Mike Burns in

Harden produced some ex-

quisite cuts before being given

out lbw to James, despite

stretching well forward. At 133

for 5, the outcome was still in

the halance, but Keith Parsons

saw Somerset home with 32 oot

out after being caught off a co-

Felf: 1-9, 2-76, 3-89, 4-122, 5-148, 6-156, 7-204, 8-285, 8-299.

Bowling: Kirtley 10-0-57-2; Lewry 10-0-51-2; Edwards 73-0-77-1; Robinson 10-1-53-4; Bevan 10-0-40-0; Newell 2-0-19-0 Umpires: B Dudleston and M J Hards.

Benson & Hedges tables

ball in the closing stages.

However, Bowler dug in and

the first over from McLean.

removed both John Crawley and Neil Fairbrother.

Sharp, who is the new professional at Blackpool this year, saw Crawley get off the mark by lifting him for a second-ball six, but got his revenge by having him snared at slip by Rogers for

But Atherton, the former England captain, stuck in to finish oo 28 not out as Lancashire secured a seven-wicket victory

they oow have five points from

Australia are to persist with

their policy of having two captains in the ruo-up to oext

year's World Cup. Mark Taylor

will carry oo as the Test skipper

with the one-day captain, Steve

Waugh, also told to continue af-

ter a meeting with Australian

SECONO XI CHAMPIONSHIP (First day of four): Edgbaston: Yent 423 for 6 (R W T Key 86, J H Baldock 73, M J Llong 110, S lobel 52no) v Warwickhirs: Chesterfield: Yorkshire 204 (M J Wood 60) Derbyshire 66

Cricket Board officials.

four group matches.

criticism from Super League that it acted too bastily in agreeing a two-year extension of Silk Cut's sponsorship in the week before this year's final. Super League's chairman.

Chris Caisley, has said that he and his member clubs should have been consulted.

However, the League argues that sponsorship deals have always been oegotiated by its officers and that this deal was agreed in principle while Maurice Lindsay, now the managing director of Super League, was still chief executive at the

League. The deal, which is worth £1.8m, takes the game through to the end of tobacco sponsorship of sport and also bridges the potentially awkward gap when the Cup final must move away from Wembley during re-

building. Today's fixtures

PONTINS LEAGUE Division One: Oldhert

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Ipswich v Crystal Palace (70), NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Division: Kidagrova Americ v Blackpool Rovers (80): Catheroe v Buracough.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Di-vision: Greenwich Borough v Filversham Town (730): Swanley Furness v Shappey Utd.

Football

7.30 unless state

Rugby League

7.30 unless aurou UEFA CUP FINAL Lazio v Internazionate (7.4t (at Parc des Princes, Parts)

(at Part tals Frankliershill FA CARLING PREMIERSHII Liverpool v Arsonal (7.45) .

Benson & Hedges Cup Middlesex v Ireland

1-402, Wasses 5-1-05 5-0-16-1 MIDDLESEX K R Brown c & b Dwyer J L Langer b Cooke R L Johnson b McCrum "M R Ramprakesh not ok

TTOXETER (E) 975 985 ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 261 970

Did not bat: O A Shah, †D C Nash, A G J Fraser, J P Hewitt, A R C Fraser. Bowling: Cooks 10-0-43-1; Eagleson 9-0-38-1; McCrum 10-0-48-1; Dwyer 10-2-23-1; Hassley 9-1-34-0.

lenge oo a slow pitch, but the

(39) used their experience to

guide Somerset home with 6.3

gold award for his miserly eight-

Graham Rose collected the

overs to spare.

Minor Counties v Lancashire LAKENHAM: Lancashire bt Minor Counties by seven wickets tire won toss

er: H D Bird and J W Lloyds.

Bowling: Wastin 45-1-3-1; Martin 8-1-20-2; Austin 9-1-19-2; Chapple 5-2-7-5.

Total (for 3, 13.4 overs) Fall: 1-2 2-22 3-28. oot bet: "Wasim Akram, †W K Hegg, Austin, G Cheppie, G Yales, P J Mar-

un. Bowling: Newmen 8-2-18-1; Sherp 64-2-25-2; Richardson 1-0-10-0. Umpires: 7 E Jesty and A A Jones. Someset v Hampshire Hampshire won tose
HAMPSHIRE
G W White b Rose
J 6 Larsy c Trescotick b Rose
"A A Smith b Mushtaq
V Keech b Pleason TAUNTON: Somerset bi Hamp five wickets eech b Pierson
Mescarenha c Trescothick b Pier
Stepheneon c Burns b Trescothick
Udal c Pierson b Trescothick
James not out

toral (cor 5, 43-50) 4-11(1,5-133.
Did not bet: D A Rieve, A R Caddick, A R K Pierson, Mushtat Ahmed.
Bowling: McLean 83-0-54-1; Hartiey 8-2-24-0; James 10-1-41-1; Stephenson 10-2-15-00-16-16-16-16-16-16-16-16-16-16-16-1 24-0; James 10-1-4:-1; Stephenson 10-2-1; 2; Udal 4-0-15-1; Mascarenhas 3-0-11-0. Sussex v Glamorgan

BRIGHTON 2.20: 1. KING FOLEY (D NicGerlin) 9-2; 2. Volcanic Star 8-1; 3: Who's Affection 5-2; 2. Who's Affection 5 Spice (8th), 1-14, 1/4 (W Turner, Sherborne) Tokes (380; E169, E270, E170, Dual Forecast: E1690, CSF: £3784 Troc

27700.
2.50: 1. EUROCLINK THE LAD (R Price)
9-2; 2. Experte 7-2 tay; 3. Errant 10-1 18
ran. hd. 'h. (D Burchel, Ebbw Vele). Tote:
5540; 5200; 5190; 5200; DF: 5540; CSF;
52170; Tro: 51210; Non Runners:
Kayzee, Sharbadard.
3.20: 1. SUNIKAY (N Poland) 12-112. Rying Pennant 33-1; 3. Medicerie 5-1 fay; 4.
Outline 20: 1-17 tax. 17-1 (R Ingram, Falsaton). Tote: 52080; 5390; 5980; 5150; 5810
DF: 533450; CSF; 537789; 78cast; 52,5834

Total (for 9, 50 overs) ______302 Falls 1-21, 2-139, 9-162, 4-172, 5-182, 6-213, 7-248, 8-286, 9-302 Did not bet: M A Robinson Bowsing: Wager 10-0-43-4; Weldon 10-0-71-1; Thomas 8-0-85-1; Butcher 5-0-36-1; Croft 10-41-0; Cosker 7-0-32-1. GLAMORGAN R D Shew by b Lewry A Dale b Robins A Dale b Robinson

A Cottiey run out

A W Evens lov b Robinson

G P Butcher c Petror b Robinson

S II Thomas b Kirtley

Wager Younis b Kirtley

S L Wedkin b Edwards

D A Cosleer not out

Extras (b2, w5, n65)

Total (49.3 overs)

Extras (\$14, with...

AON TROPHY (One day): Cardiff: Giamorgen 295 for 6 (i J Thomas 67); Somerat 295 for 4 (K Shire 79, J I D Kerr 51). Somerant won on the faster according rate. Shanley: MCC 295 for 7 (A J Clarke 62no). Essex 205 for 7 (N Betson Stro). MCC won 11.0 unless stated

BENSON & HEDGES CUP (One day): Chester-le-Street: Durham v Scotland. Bristot: Goucastershire v British Universities. Goucastershire v British Universities. Amor Courbes v Warwickshire.

AON TROPHY (One day): Hisckley: Leicestershire v Middleson.

HUGBY LEAGUE First Division: Swinton v Dewsbury (730); Waterfield v Keighley (730); Whiteheven v Leigh (730). Second Division: Doncaster v Belley (730). Rugby Union WILLIS CORRON HIBERNIA CUP: RAF v Royal Navy (70) jar RMFS Portsmouth).



Racing results

CHESTER CITES (EK
2.10: 1. QUEENSLAND STAR (G Corer)
2-1 lay, 2. Golden Sites 9-1; 3. Charapagne
Rider 10-1. 7 ran. 1. 2/s. (J Berry, Cocler-ham). Tota: 2.20; 5150, 5170. Duel Forecast
5190. Computer Straight Forecast: 5200. Non
Runner: Carequick.
2.60: 1. CASINO CAPTIVE (J Reic) 5-1;
2. Denrico Physiken 7.2 if bur 3. Michael-lah.

2. Denois Phenton 72 pt lay; 3. Himsdeth 7.2 pt lay. 10 ren. 2. 2%. (P Chapple-Hyan, Manton). Totae E700; 5230, 5140, 5150 DF: 51090. CSF: £218. Trio: \$1540. 21090 CSP: 12208 Ind: KTS40. 3.10: 1, GULLAND (M HBs) 1-2 fav; 2. The Glow-Worm 9-2: 3. Distant Milego 5-2. 5 ran. shi-hi, 4 (G Wingg, Newmarks) Toke: C150; C100, C130, DF; C190, CSF; 5224. 3.40: 1. BREAK THE RULES IF Norton)
5-1: 2. Abajany 6-1: 3. Almond Rock 11-2
Place 6: £3951 Place 5: £4805

10 ran. 100-30 fav Fint Knapper, 11/4, 1. (D 10 rail, 100-30 to Perit Anapper, 174, 1 (J. Nichola, Thisid, Rote (2000; 216), 2250, 2160. Dual Forecast: £13.0 CSF: £33.29. Tricast: £159.28. Tric. £288.0. 4.10; 1. BODFARI PRIEDE (D. Wingh), 5-1; 2. GiR Of Gold 20-1; 3. Plan-B 5-2 fax. 13 rail. nk. ½. (A. Beiley, Tarportey), Tote: £400; 5150, £380, £350, £750, £580, £350, £75

4.40: 1. CLASSY CLEO (J) F Egen) 8-1; 2. Frier Tuck 4:-1; 3. Allmattes 18-1, 13 ran-3-1 fav Easter Ogl, nit, 1/L (P Evens, Weish-pool), Tota: £830; £250, £430, £530, DF: ESSAO CSF: £11414 Tricent: £163304 Tric: £23990 NR: Phentom Ping. ot: £8,737,70. Placepot £6950, Quadpot: £2650

This: £382.30; £436.23 carried forward to Chester 3:10 today. Non Runner: Particles. 3.50: 1. COHIBA (J. Quirri) 9-2; 2. Ran-dom Kindness 3-1 fav; 3. Tellion 12-1. 15 ran. 2, 27. (B. Curley, Newmarkst), Tota: £18.30; \$4.20, £170, £200 DF: £50.20. CSF: 1290, 1420, 1520, DF: \$13430, CSF: \$20492 £18.74 Tricast £158.71 Trio: £23690. Non Run

CRA-Incast ESS/1 Inc. 123680 rom Hum-ner: Royal Legend. 4,26: 1. L'ESTABLE FLEURIE (S Sanders) 11-4 lav, 2. Contrary Mary 4-1: 3. Scotland Bay 7-2. 12 ran. Vr. 1½. (F Maint, Opbourne Massey) Tote: 1240; 1240, 1240, 1290 Dual Forecast £1140, CSF: £1452 Tho: 4.50: 1. KATHIES PET (S Drowne) 12-1; 2. Ready Fontaine 16-1; 3. I Cried For You 10-1 15 rkn. 11-4 fav Grace. 1, 1/2. (R Hodges, Somerion). Tote: £1250: £220.

2.00: 1. TAMARINDO (Mr A Farrant) 2-5 for; 2. Emperor Buck 9-1; 3. Otter River 88-1 13 rem. Dist. 3. (M Pipal Roise: £1.30; £10 £150, £850. DF: £510 £8F: £4.77. Tno: £82.20. 2.30; 1. AFON ALWEN (G Tormey) 7-2; 2. Notive Charm 11-4 tar; 3. Country House 15-2. 17 ran. 3½; 11 (P Hobbs). Tota: \$450; 52:20, \$180, \$330, \$37, \$370, \$371, \$388 Tito: \$2340, NFT Just Jasmine.

Piece 6: £325.37. Piece 6: £10700. **EXETER**

3.00: 1. RAMALLAH (J Culloty) 10-1; 2. Coole Hill 100-30 ter; 3. Baykine Star 20-1 11 ran. 6, hd. (Mas H Knight) Tota: 27-30; £160, £2:0, £7:50. DF: £400. CSF: £4151. Tid-cast; £502.25. Trio: £124.70. Non Runner: Sey-

3.30: 1. ROYAL POT BLACK (Mr R Widge) 25-1; 2. Indian Temple 18-1; 3. Wot No Gin 12-1; 11 rem. 2-1 fev Cool As A Cutomber 4, 1½, (? Hobbs) 70te: 22770; 5450, 2890, 2280, . DF: 522,770 CSF: 231490 Tricast: \$482748, The 'PROJEC' 12388 carried forward in Charles

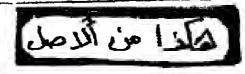
brward to Chester 3.10 today. Non Runner:

Hurn N Heav.
4.00: 1. MY MAIN MAN (Mr A Ferrant)
10-1; 2. Certain Angle 4-1; 3. Comedy
Gayle 11-2, 11 raw, 2-1 fav The Major General. 16, 2 (Mrs Sally Messer-Bennelts). Total:

£2230; £480, £230, £130. Dual Forecast £5460. Computer Straight Forecast; £4809 Trio: £8550.

4.30: 1. HARRY (G Tormey) 10-1; 2. Sur-rise Special 10-1; 3. Gunne Dilerana 25-1. 13 ran. 11-4 fav Sol Music. 1; 2/s. (P Hobbs). Tota: 28.50; 52.40, 53.80, 25-52.0 DF: 270.00. CSF: 296.45. Tricast: \$2.212.57. Tric: not work £245.25 carried lorward to Chester 330 to-day. Non Purmer: Countgeous Kright. 3.00: 1. POPSI'S CLOGGS (J Leech)

2-1; 2. Dust For One 14-1; 3. Thole Tri-usuph 18-1 10 ran. 7-4 lay Door To-Door. 3½, ½. (R Curtis). Total: \$1390; \$270, \$410, 330. DF: \$1450. GSP: \$16576. This \$10180. Placepot: £2,840,80. Quadpot: £320,80. Place 6: £175378. Place 5: £134508.



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Tigers act to defuse biting row

Rugby Union

By Chris Hewett

PAUL VAN-ZANDVLIET. Newcastle's tight-head prop, appeared before Gateshead magistrates yesterday afternoon to face eight charges of selling counterfeit clothing. It was not the only problem on his mind; on Sunday, the 18-stone forward had been photographed in the throes of an unpleasant scrap with Neil Back, the Leicester flanker - an incident that threatened to land English rugby with a new hiting scandal.

Van-Zandvliet denied all allegations of counterfeit trading and was hailed to re-appear in court on 16 June. Meanwhile, Leicester moved swiftly to defuse a potentially explosive disciplinary situation by publicly clearing their opponent and declaring the matter closed.

The photographs appeared to show Van-Zandvliet biting Back on the head during a prolonged dust-up between the rival packs in the closing stages of England tour place while Fran-Newcastle's 27-10 victory over the Tigers. However, Back said yesterday: "I can't remember being bitten on the head at any stage. I was bitten on the thumb at some stage, but I have no complaint as I could have been hught by accident in the act of pushing a player away."

Peter Wheeler, the Leicester chief executive, added: "In these rucks and mauls, you get players pressed very tightly together and, if someone gets pressed and somebody has their mouth open, it can be misconstrued." Wheeler confirmed that Leicester would take no further steps, apart from to hold an internal investigation into the dismissal of Will Greenwood for butting.

It now remains to be seen whether the Rugby Football Manock, chooses to pursue the of Van-Zandvliet's role in the vi- chief executive. Most intelligeot olent conclusion - "I can't com- life on the planet might, for ment on something I didn't once, agree with them.

see and I won't make any mentinn of it in my report," said the Bristol official - but Manock's team have taken the occasional firm stand in recent months. Ironically, their most celebrated "examples" were Dean Ryan and Nick Popplewell, two Newcastle forwards.

It now seems certain that Greenwood will miss England's summer tour of the southern hemisphere; Morrison's report is likely to paint a damning picture of his injury-time butt on Rob Andrew and International Board guidelines suggest a 60day han for any misuse of the head. England are due to fly to Australia later this month and return in early in June.

This Saturday's Tetley's Bit-

ter Cup final between Saracens and Wasps at Twickenham is likely to throw two of the highest-profile players in the game together in varying states of physical distress. Lawrence Dallaglio, the Wasps captain, is a definite starter despite a shoulder injury that jeopardises his cois Pienaar, the Saracens player-coach, says he has a 70 per cent of risking his dodgy hamstring, "I'm desperate to play. hut it's a matter of what is best for the team," said Pienaar yesterday. "I'm no more than 70 per cent fit, but that is a good 20 per cent better than this time last week. We'll make a final decisioo tomorrow."

Pienaar's inspirational participation would be of incalculable benefit to Saracens, and there were signs yesterday that he will start the match. So too might Kyran Bracken, the scrumhalf, whose groin injury improved sufficiently to allow him a full training session yesterday.

The only thing that will definitely be missing from the weekend showpiece is the cel-Uoion's disciplinary panel, un- ebration music habitually der the chairmanship of Roy played by both London clubs when a try is scored. "The RFU matter. Ed Morrisoo, the match don't think it's quite the thing," referee, will make no mentioo said Geoff Huckstep, the Wasps



Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager (right) welcomes Jaap Starn to Old Trafford

Nesta can tame rampant Ronaldo

Football

By Paddy Agnew

A FASCINATING duel between Internazionale's Brazilian striker Ronaldo and the Lazio defender Alessandro Nesta could provide one of the keys to tonight's all-Italian Uefa Cup final at the Parc des Princes in Paris. Nesta, 22, one of the stars of

Lazio's successful season and now an automatic choice in Italy's World Cop side, will taining an in-form Ronaldo in settled in a one-off match rather than over two legs.

"Ronaldo's the best there is, because he can do the most skilful of things even in full flight

when many others would probably mess it up," Nesta said yes-

Ronaldo, for his part, has already siruggled against Lazio in two Serie A games this season: a I-1 draw in Milan in October and an emphatic 3-0 win for Lazio in Rome in February. "For me, Nesta has been the

best defender of the se However, for him and for all of us, it will be different in Paris," Rooaldo said. The Ronaldo-Nesta clash is

just one fascinating aspect of a have the difficult task of con- contest that brings together two star-studded sides that cur-

midfielders Javier Zanetti and European final. Their previous Diego Simeone as well as the talented winger Francesco Moriero, Lazio can reply with two Italian international strikers in Roberto Mancini and Pierluigi Both sides are at close to full Casiraghi, the Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved and the Yn-

Jugovic. ing Milan in last week's Italian jury for two weeks. Cup final.

goslav playmaker, Vladimir

the final looking to improve an occupied by the Inter captain the first Uefa Cup final to be rently rank among the best in impressive track record which while Casingbi comes ioto the Europe. While Inter field play- has seen them win the 1964 and ers of the calibre of the former 1965 European Cups and the Lazio midfielder Aron Win- 1991 and 1994 Uefa Cups in 34 ter, the French schemer Youri seasons in Europe. Lazio, by Djorkaeff, the classy Argentine contrast, are playing in their first

best performance saw them eliminated at the quarter final stage of the 1994-95 Uefa Cup by Borussia Dortmund.

strength. Lazio are without only the injured Croatian striker Alen Boksic, while Inter are still doubtful about the 34-year-old Lazio, fourth in Serie A. sweeper Giuseppe Bergomi. come into the game on a high He hopes to extend his record after winning their first major of European appearances to 108 trophy for 24 years by defeat- but has been nursing a thigh in-

Salvatore Fresi is likely to Inter, meanwhile, approach step into the libero role normally Lazio attack in place of Boksic. Internazionale (probable); Paglius; Bergo-mi or Freel, Sartor, Colomesse, West; Morleo, Winter, Simeone, Zenetti; Djorkeefi, Romaldo. Luzdo (scobeble): Manchegiani; Grandori, Neste, Negro, Fazelt; Fuser, Venturin, Jugov-ic, Nadved; Mancini, Castraghi.

> TODAY'S NUMBER

431

The number of aces served in 30 matches this year by Britain's No 1 tennis player, Greg Rusedski. He leads the 1998 ATP Tour statistics, 138 aces ahead of Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic, his fellow left-hander. who has served 293 aces but played only 21 matches. Sweden's Thomas Enqvist is third with 285 aces from 32 matches.

Gullit move to Fulham ruled out

By Mark Bradley

RUUD GULLIT'S agent yesterday ruled out any chance of the Dutchman returning to English football with Fulham next season, following a report that the London's club chairman, Mohamed Al Fayed, was lining up the former Chelsea manager to replace Kevin Keegan.

The report suggested that the billionaire Harrods owner would offer Gullit a lucrative deal to replace Keegan and Rav Wilkins if the Second Division club fail to win promotion in the play-offs this month.

However, Gullir's agent, Phil Smith, said: "With all respect to Fulham, the only possible connection between them and Raud is that he loves London.

"I imagine Kevin Keegan would have something to say on the matter. Rund is looking very carefully at his options but has already virtually stated he will not come back to English football next season. "It will take a top Conti-

nental club to persuade him to continue his managerial career and carry on where he left off at Chelsea." Gullit said last month: "I

want to do something I really enjoy hut I'm not in a hurry to stuck in again next season. make a decision.

"There were suggestions I could have returned to the Premiership if I had wanted to, but that would have been seen as revenge against Chelsea and I didn't want that,"

Gullit was sacked by Chelsea in February to be replaced by summer." Dennis refused to re-Gianluca Vialli, and has since veal whether any funds will be been continuing his commercial made available for new players.

interest: outside the game, including the recent launch of his autobiography. He is also taking a Dutch Football Federation coaching course.

The Barnsley chairman. John Dennis, is confident that his marager Danny Wilson will steer the club back to the Premiership next season.

Wilson pledged his loyalty to the Tykes and vowed to honour the remaining two years on his contract following Saturday's 1-0 defeat at Leicester which sent Barnsley back to the First Division after just one season in the top flight.

Dennis, who admits Wilson has conducted himself with dignity in the face of constant adversity over the last oine months, believes he will continue to do so throughout the close season. "I have an undying belief in Danny Wilson, just as I have in my football club," he said. "I genuinely felt we would be good enough to survive in the Premiership this season, hut that has obviously not been the case.

"Equally, I am confident that with the manager we have and the squad of players we are going to try to keep together, we will roll our sleeves up and get

"Danny has handled himself very well all season, which is nothing more than one would expect from him. I will continue to expect him to conduct himself well when there is likely to be a lot of speculation surrounding him and his future this

Evans in line for call from Walsall

ALLAN EVANS is being lined up as Walsall's new manager following the dismissal of Jao Sorensen.

Evans, the former assistant manager at Aston Villa, bas been out of work since leaving Villa wheo John Gregory replaced Brian Little as manager. He is expected to move into the Walsall job some time in the next few days.

Sorensen left the Second Division strugglers with a thinly-veiled attack on the club's directors. The former Danish international and ex-Ajax player, who had a year left on his contract, was bitter at his treatment after taking Walsall to the fourth rounds of the FA Cup and the Coca-Cola Cup and Southern Area final of the Auto Windscreens Shield, makings an estimated £750,000 for cent. the club. However, Walsall only narrowly avoided relegation.

Birmingham are preparing to offer their manager, Trevor First Division play-offs. City's competition."

chairman, David Gold, will offer Francis a new two-year deal that would keep him at St Andrew's until the year 2000.

Wolves have given free transfers to the former England winger Tony Daley and Dariusz Kubicki, a former Polish international.

The Football League attracted its higgest crowds for over half a century in the season just finished. A total of 13,558,561 watched Nationwide League matches this season, which was the largest number for the bottom three divisions since 1971-72.

The rise from last year was 13.2 per cent, with crowds in the First Division, in which the average gate was 15,078, rising by 20.1 per cent. The Second Division total was up 8.9 per cent, with only the Third Division showing a decline, of 5.2 per

The Football League's spokesman, Chris Hull, said: "The figures across the board are phenomenal and illustrate Francis, a new contract after his the enduring attraction of the side missed out on a place in the world's oldest league football

Earlier, Tommy Haas, one of Tour, said perhaps all nine will hig European tournaments About 8,000 people packed BORIS BECKER, the former the centre court oo a cool and the new crop of German playrainy day to see what may be ers, npset the Monte Carlo

Wimbledon champion now in semi-retirement, lost to Magnus the German Open in Hamburg yesterday. Gustafsson is 31 and one

now playing only selected tournaments. The Swedish veteran

serve nuce in each set

Becker's last appearance at the Gustafsson in the first round of tournament, which is a crucial warm-up for French Open later this month.

year older than Becker, who is I lose my concentration and make the wrong shot," Becker said when asked if he had lost

won 7-5, 6-4, breaking Becker's his sharpness by playing fewer in the game. But Mark Miles, tournaments.

"There are moments when

Becker's defeat may prove Hamburg swansong

champion, Carlos Moya. The 20-year-old German beat the 10th-seeded Spaniard 6-2, 7-5.

The German Open is one of the so-called Super Nine events that the ATP has proposed reducing to seven starting in 2000. in an attempt to revive interest

the chief executive of the ATP remain on the schedule. "Player commitment still has to fall into place, but clearly there is or the German Open. movement," Miles said. The ATP wants all the top-

ranked players to be committed to play at its top-tier events and Miles said more and and more players seem to be accepting the idea of playing all nine.

seven top-tier events, one of the would lose that status, either Monte Carlo, the Italian Open Tim Henman, seeking extra

If the schedule is reduced to

clay-court practice in Hamburg this week, is a surprise entry in the men's doubles with the Chilean left-hander Marcelo Rios, who was world No I for two weeks earlier this year.

12,500 when completed.

Tom O'Malley has been voted the new chairman of Hibernian tollowing Lex Golds rasignation after the club were religiated at the weekend. Gold stepped down within an hour of Hibernian's 2-1 loss to Dundee United at Easter Road which means they will finish bottom of the Premier Division. Table termis The England champton Matthew Syed and Lise Lomas, the National women's title holder, have retained their positions at the top of the new England ranking lists Issued yesterday. Tennis

NHI. WESTERN CONFERENCE PLAY-OFFS Quarter-linel (best-of-envert se-ries): Edmonton 4 Colorado 0 (Edmonton wins series 4-2).

Awards at Murrayfield yesterday, The New Zealand-born flanker was a key member of the Watsonians side which clinched the first Scottish league this in 25 years of trying last Saturday at the home of the former champions Metrose. Squash

Gioucester's former national champ-lon Fiona Geaves claimed her first World Your victory in four years by beating Australia's Kate Major 9-5 9-2 9-0 in the final of the Santa Berbara Open in the United States yesterday. Semi-finale: K Major (Aus) bt 7 Shenton (Eng) 8-9 9-4 7-9 9-7 8-7; F Geaves (Eng) tt S Shind (Eng) 9-3 9-3 9-9 9-1 Pinal: Geaves bt Major 8-5 8-2 8-0.

Tennis
Grag Rusedski and Tim Henman have
both entered this year's Stella Artois
grass court championarios at Queens
Queens Queens
Queens Queens
Wimbledon champion, Pate Samoras,
nor the In-form Andre Agassi are
among the direct entries announced
yesterday. There is still an impressive
entry with four of the worlds top 10 in
the field.
Andrew Richardson was beaten 6-1
6-3 by Radomir Vasek of the Czech

Andrew Richardson was beaten 6-1 6-3 by Radomir Vasek of the Czech Republic in the first round of the ATP Challenger tournament in Llubliana, Slovenia, yesterday, Richardson reached a Carearhigh world narking of 133 last November but, in the latest ATP rankings announced yesterday, the 24-year-old had dropped to 162.

162.
GERMAN OPEN (Hamburg) First round:
T Hass (Ger) bt C Moya (Sp) 6-2 7-5; B
Ulfrach (Cz Rap) for 2 Kambacher (Ger) 6-3-3-5 6-2; M Gustatson (Swe) bt B Backer (Ger) 7-5 6-4; N Lapertil (Ecu) bt B Steven
(kz) 6-4 6-4; O Gross (Ger) bt N Klefer (Ger)
3-6 8-2 6-2; 2 Dosectal (Cz Rap) bt D Hirbary
(Swi) 5-0 6-2.
TALLAN OCEN (Bornet First round: 5 Tiss-

(Ski) \$0.6-2

ITALIAN OPEN (Roons) First round: \$18stud (Ft) bt I. Gelarsa (N) 2-6.6-4.6-2; D Van
Roost (Bel) bt K. Hebbudos (Blovet) 8-4.6-2;
M. Samtrez Lorenzo (Sp.) bt M. Oramans.
(Ned) 6-4.6-1; F. I. (Ch) bt O. Barabanschikova (Bul) 7-6.6-2; S. Pitkowski (Ft) bt
S. Appeirrans (Bel) 6-1.3-6-5; N. Sawarnatsu
(Jon) bt I. Courtois (Bel) 1-6-6-2-6-4; L. Raymond (US) bt A-G. Sadot (Ft) 2-6.6-3.7-5; A.
Lillier (US) bt R. Grande (N) 6-3-6-0; S. Pantal (N) bt F. Libbari (N) 6-0-6-1; A. Fusti (Ft)
bt A. Sugyarna (Japan) 7-6-6-0; J. Kanderr
(Ger) bt F. Labat (Arg) 4-6.8-4.7-5.

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Silk Cut in a sudden surge

Sporting Digest

ED UNIT

FROM last to first, positions on the eighth leg of the Whitbread Race were turned upside down yesterday as two British skippers, Paul Standbridge and Lawrie Smith, moved from eighth and ninth to share the lead, writes Stuart Alexander from Annapolis, Maryland, First, the boats taking a

northerly track on the western Atlantic side of the 3,400 mile run from here to La Rochelle were favoured, as Paul Cayard les on EF Language. Then it looked as if both Knut Frostad and Grant Dalton, who bad stayed further south to pick up more quickly the free ride of the Gulf Stream, would come marging through.

Languishing at the hack were Standbridge, whose Toshiha added a five-hour tangle with a fish trap on the way out of Chesapeake Bay to running aground on the way in, and Smith, whose Silk Cut had also chosen the middle way. These two then picked up their skirts and set the fastest average speeds to go ahead of Cayard. fust behind EFL the allwoman crew in the syndicate

partnership put Christine Guil-

Cup, just phead of Frostad's Kvaerner, could only watch as

they dropped back to take up the rearguard positions.

MAJOR LEAGUE: Chicago White 8cx 6 Are-heim 5; Cakterid 7; Toronto 4; Cinchinett 4 Montreal 1; Colorado 11 Philadelphia 2; Al-lanta 4 Los Angeles 2; Sen Francisco 8 Flori-da 0; San Diego 18 Milwaulese 5; Artsona 4 NY Mets 2 (11 mnings). AMERICAN LEAGUE

Boston 20 9 690 11/4 Tampa Bay ______12 Minnesota12 Detroit..... West Division 10 855 · 13 567 2½ 18 467 5½ 16 467 5½

21 9 700 Basketball NBA WESTERN CONFERENCE PLAYOFFS Sami-final (best-of-awar) swries): Seatle 106 Los Angeles 92 (Seatle lead 1-0).

Bowis

WATERLOO MOCED PAIRS: Final day qualifiers: M McKey & A Les (Cadishead) it J Hart & B Hart (Moster) 21-19; 5 College & A College (Litheborough) bt J Gwars & B Lindey (Cadishead) 21-20; C Bleekey & L Shekkey (Ramsbottom) in O Norris & R Norris (Southport) 21-17; J Bondley & M Cyars (Chademood) bt A Howard & J Howard (Preston) 21-17; J Norbolson & R Nicholson (Hohmfeld) bt M Boyle & P Kelly (St Helens) 21-20; B Bury & H Harrysanss (Blackburn) bt P Gâroy & H Gâroy (Bardisrd) 21-11; P Dawes & M Winnington (Northwelt) 21-11; P Dawes & M Winnington (Northwelt) 21-11; P Dawes & M Winnington (Northwelt) 21-15; O McLoughim & D McLoughim (Thorrison) bt P Baker & I Baker (Stoke on Thent) 21-18. or and EF Education into tourth. And Dalton's Merit

Manchester's Michael Brodie has been confirmed as the mandatory challenger to Sergel Develop, the new European super-bantamweight title holder. The Ulcrainian won the belt when he stopped Spencer Oliver in the 10th round of his challenge at the Floyel Albert Hall on Saturday right. Officer is still in hospital after an operation to remove a blood clot on his brain. Permindhem's Robert McCracter has

to remove a blood clot on his brain. Birmingham's Robert McCracken has suffered a rib injury while spenning at his Las Vegas training camp and the middleweight is now in demoar of hav-ing to pull out of his next fight egainst Bo James in Corpus Christie, leves, on 19 May. Deen Pithle's hopes of challenging for the World Boxing Organisation world super-feather weight title in Paris later this month now look sim. Coventry-based Pithle had been hoping to meet Julien Lorcy in the French capital on 16 May after the title holder, the Welshman Barry Jones, felled a brain scan. But objections have been missed to Pithle meeting Lorcy as he is only ranked No 4 by the WBO.

Equestrianism

Equestrianism.

Professor Leo Jeffcott, Dean of Cambridge Veterinary School, has been appointed as challman of the veterinary committee of the International Equestrian Federation. He replaces Peter Cronau and becomes the first British vet to hold the office for a four-year term. Plane to hold the 1999 European. Show Jumping Championshis at the Vorkstike Agricultural Society's Harmoatte showground have been abenronstate injurishment accesses in terrogate showground have been abendoned. The society has withdrawn the
offer for use of the venue, because the
organisers had been unable to give a
firm commitment than the champlonships would go ahead. Football

Football
Leicester's Emile Heskey looks set to lead England's assaut on the Toulon Under-21 tournement in France which starts next week. The Filbert Street striker is one of seven players with under-21 experience in the provisional 24-man squad named by the couch, Peter Taylor yesterday, Taylor, who will reduce the party to its by the time the squad files out to the Privera, has not named Liverpools. Michael Owen or West Hams. Filo Ferdinand who are challenging for places in the serior squad. ENGLAND UNDER-21 PROVISIONAL SCUAD (foolan Under-21 formament, France; starting 14 May). Simonem (faminen), Loots (Pasion), Tyler (Petatorouch), Clegg (Manchester Under), Cortic Manchester Under), Rosaut, Rosaut, Rosaut, Scuado (Cortic Manchester Under), Rosaut, Rosau

Howe (Sournemouth), Purse (Birminghem), Marsh (Oxford), Kozkuk (Derby), Efflott (Derby), Carragher (Liverpoot), Lampard (Mest Ham), Hamatic (Acton Villa), Morginy (Liverpoot), Oxford (Hampard), Oxford (Hampard), Oxford (Hamber), Lampard (Oxford), Hamatic (Liverpoot), After (Derbard), Marshay (Liverpoot), After (Derbard), Bert (Crystal Potica), Ourfermine Athletic were yesterday severded ELSm from the Scottish Sports Council and the Pootball Trust to help them redevelop East End Park in time for next season's Scottish Premier Lasgue. The capacity of two new an une for heat seasons socials in the miler League. The capacity of two new stands will be 3,004, including provision for disabled spectators, bringing the overall capacity to an all-seated \$2,500 when completed. 12,500 when completed.

finish bottom of the Premier Division. Cettle have fined up a pre-season friendly in honour of Botton-born defender Jimmy Philips at the Reabok stadium. The 32-year-old had two spells at Botton and also played at Rangers. Oxford and Middlesbrough. The game is set for Tuesday 4 August. FRANCE PREJUMNARY WORLD CUP SOUAD: Geolisepers Bartine (Norsco), Churbornier (Austra), Later (Nest Ham), Later (Nest). Defendent: Blave (Norsco), Churbornier (Austra), Learne (Nest) (Crosco), Churbornier (Deselley (Nifer), Detection (Beyen Munich), Thuram (Perma), Midfieldens: Ba (Mart), Desally (Nestra), Bothosta (Austra), Churchus (Liverina), Martich, Lingle (Sampdoris), Deschamps (Juverius), Diomade (Austra), Churchus, Patti (Austra), Pris (Natz), Visira (Austra), Patri (Austra), Pris (Natz), Visira (Austra), Pris (A

Hallyting
COPSICA RALLY Leading positions after
12 stages: 1 C McPee (GE) Submu Impreza
2r 48mm 215sec; 2 C Sehru (Sp) Toyota
Corola + 4fusec; 3 P Listin (B) Submu Impreza
4518; 4 F Deleccur (Fr) Paugeol 206
1:70; 5 O Auriol (Fr) Toyota Corola 1:205;
5 B Thiny (Bel) Ford Excot 1:255; 7 G Parizzi
(Fr) Paugeol 306 1:45; 3 P Bugetel (Fr) Carolin 2:458; 9 J Kankkuran (Fri) Ford Escot 3:544; 10 F Doerlen (Fri) Cirolin 4:078.

Rugby Union Cameron Mathet was voted player of the year in the Terments/Scotsman

Crunch time for captain Stewart in France

By Derek Pringle Cricket Correspondent

IT IS A rare thing for full-time captaincy to elude someone for 75 Tests, for it suggests that important qualities are lacking. For Alec Stewart, named yesterday as Michael Atherton's successor as England captain, the eventual promotion has come more by default than from the possession of outstanding leadership qualities, though few would perhaps begrudge such an unstinting and loyal foot soldier the chance to swap his khaki fur the braid of higher office.

Stewart, now 35 and looking smarter than a Burton's dummy at Lord's yesterday, is the first Surrey player to lead England since 1961, when Peter May was captain against Australia. Although he has captained England twice before - in 1993 after Graham Gooch fell ill -Stewart will be in charge for the five-match Test series against South Africa next month as well as the one-off Test against Sri Lanka in August.

If ooe such elevation is usually enough for a county to celebrate, the appointment yesterday of Adam Hnilioake as one-day captain will have made it doubly joyful, and the Prince nf Wales' feathers will probably seen flying from every flagpole in SE11 for the next week.

Mind you, that Hollioake has only been appointed for the Texaco matches this month and not the triangular tournament in August does suggest that the selectors are perhaps getting cold feet over the dual captaincy. If they are, Stewart's role, as one of a handful of players worthy of both Test and oneday places, could expand even further. Indeed, it would not be too far fetched to see him installed as England captain for next year's World Cup.

Speaking after David Gravency, the chairman of selectors, had made the formal announcement yesterday Stewart to win. Be desperate for success, immediately scotched suggestions that he was about to put the lid on English cricket's Pan- challenge is to learn how to dnra's box once and for all.

"Obviously I'm oot going to wave a magic wand and suddenly make everything hunky dory," Stewart said. "What we will be doing is our best to be competitive and to be consistent. If we do that, then we've

a chance of being a good side."



Alec Stewart, England's new captain, faces the press alongside David Graveney (centre) and Adam Hollioake at Lord's yesterday

the selection process, and is very certain of the kind of player he wants. "They must have the will and be proud of playing for their country. Io fact our biggest

come out on lop in the crunch situations," he said. With the final choice being between just two candidates -Stewart and Nasser Hussain the decisioo by Graveney and his selectors, Graham Gooch

and Mike Gatting, was, in the end at least, a unanimous one. Unlike Athertnn, who in "The deciding factor in Alec's the eod chose oot to vote, Stewfavour." Graveney said after-

art has decided to be a part of wards, "was his experience and respect within the team." The history of Test cricket is

not exactly littered with captains who have kept wicket; a role Stewart will almost certainly have to perform this summer if England are to play a five-man bowling attack. For England, yet to win a five-match Test series since 1986/87, a major worry of opening batsusett must be that too much responsibility is being heaped upon their most important player.

Having to perform three vital jobs at nuce invites compromise and Stewart, despite an oft-stated preference for opening - something his Test batting

average also bears out, being 47 without the gloves and 32 with -will bat at either three or four. providing he keeps wicket.

But even if Stewart is happy in himself about the move down the order, any further drop in Atherton's currently modest form could leave England with an inexperienced pair

English cricket may have stopped shooting itself in the foot quite as often as it used to, but facing the oew ball partnership of Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock without Stewart or an in-from Atherton to com-

PARADED before the cameras

and microphones at Lord's ves-

terday, Alec Stewart delivered

the kind of performance we can

expect to become typical dur-

ing the months ahead. Self-as-

sured withnut being eocky.

opposition a buge advantage. Stewart, a big fan of Atherton's, counters this by saying be would be surprised, despite

one newspaper's ridiculous claims that the Lancashire man would no longer be welcome in his old partner was oot openat Edebaston.

If 33 seems an odd time to be fulfilling one's boyhood dreams Stewart, as he has already done with his batting, look at Graham Gooch, who the selectors to search more bat them would be handing the took oo the job for the first time deeply for solutions than they

Fastidious, fierce and

groomed for the top

may otherwise do. As it is, Stewat about the same age and kept playing Test cricket past the age art expects to be able call on both Atherton and Hussain for advice. of 40. Like him, as long as I'm

good enough. I'd like to play for England as long as possible." Ironically, it was probably due to this similarity in outlook months in which to rectify his the England dressing-room, if and style as Gooch's vice-captain that persuaged the selecing the innings in the first Test tors to overlook him in favour it will not be easy is an underof Atherton following Gooch's statement. In Stewart, England resignation as captain m 1993.

Perhaps therein lies a possible problem. Gooch, Gatting and Stewart are so like-minded that takes inspiratioo from the a more questioning mind, such example of Gooch: "I always as Hussain's, might have forced

included squad

Football

By Mark Burton

NICOLAS ANELKA, who made his international debut only last month in Sweden, was the surprise inclusion when France'a preliminary 28 man squad for the World Cup finals was announced yesterday.

Anelka, joined in the squad by his Arsenai team-mates Emmanuel Petit and Patrick Vieira, may not make it to next month's finals because France's coach. Aimé Jacquet, will reduce the squad to 22 by 2 June. The Charles defender Franck

Leboeuf was also chosen, along with West Ham's goalkeeper, Bernard Lama, but there was no place in the squad for either the Upton Park club's new signing. the midfielder Marc Keller, or Tottenham's David Ginola.

Ian Wright will have the opportunity to increase his chances of pushing his way into England's World Cup squad when he plays for Arsenal in their Premiership match at Liverpool tonight.

The club's record goalscorer came on as a substitute during Sunday's 4-0 victory over Everton that brought Arsenal the title, but he has not started a first-team game since mid-

France's selection of the Ar₁, senal trio – Anelka in particular - reflects their successful season, but success brings increased pressures to a club and its staff as well as reward, Milan have made an approach for the Highbury club's Premiership-winning coach. Arscoe Wenger, However, Arsenal have responded by opening talks with the Frenchman un a five-year contract that is believed to be worth £5m. It would follow oo from his current deal, which runs until the end of next season.

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:7.2 ...

The new Scottish Premiership finally became a reality when the Scottish Football Associatioo approved the historic change. The first new professional league in Scotland for 108 years will start

next season with 10 clubs. The SFA Council and members vesterday ratified their ex ecutive committee's approval of the breakaway teams' proposals to bring to an end a saga that began late last year when the Premier Division clubs announced their desire to resign from the. Scottish League and join new setup, enabling them to control tele-

Reports, Scoreboard,

winter, Stewart could not have

wished for a more difficult 12

record of two losses from two

lests in charge. Folding out mal

have one of the great survivors

and players of the last decade.

They also have a man intent on

teaching England how to win.

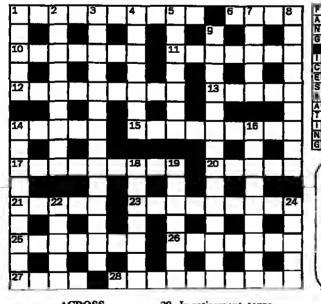
Let us hope the learning curve

is a steep ooe.

With Australia to follow this

visioo and sponsorship rights. More football, page 29

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



and provide with advantages (7-3)
He accompanied Robin

10 Post at university advantageous? (7) t1 Gangster fitting cowl tn

Hood a lot (4)

chimney (7)

26 Advertuse promounts (4)

12 Staff in declines keep standards up (9)

28 Things indispensible to 13 Crack up in apex tolerated

ers cootribate (5)

Eugenia preparing wine to 2 put before cider-maker 17 Faces woman, throwing pie 3 with glancing blow (9)

20 In retirement, tense avoided making earthen-21 OT character, individual

back at church (5) 23 Clerk, one trying to influence style? (3-6) record book (7) 26 Advertise promotion (5,2)

Down-stage mistake (5) How sailor responded, having released tension by psychoanalysis (9)

here (9) cardinal before Sunday Many-faced figures heard about at college (9) Mark, prime suspect on

(4-10) Rabbit on road, an excel-

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leot specimen of its kind ('/) Lydia's part in moving

sheep over America (7) Dark place of retirement in France (5) Most plain in America is superlatively unpretentious Jet monorail due to be developed — the pair com-ing to grief? (5,3.6) Garish flat? (9)

ship (7) Honour England's opening pair — impressivel (7) Oil-producer's order not recorded (5) Spore scattered in lines (5)

> made himself the consummate professional. Summer and winter, he trains every day, determined at 35 years old to keep himself at his physical peak. He art. From the age of 18 in 1981 talent come up with a trophy.

Immaculate image hides a hard edge. Jon Culley on the new man in charge

competitive - too much so, it

him that dedication and com-

mitment are as important as

ability and that self-belief is

paramount. "He told me that if

I did not back my ability, why

should anyone else," Stewart

once said. "That is not arro-

gance, just common sense."

positive without being unreal istic, patriotic but not jingoistic, fastidiously minds what he eats courteous hut oot fawning. and takes alcohol only occa-As a matter of form, he sionally. He also keeps videos of paid generous a tribute to his himself in urder to analyse and predecessor, a good deal of correct technical flaws. which was born of genuine ad-What is more, he is fiercely

was said, in his younger days. In however, in Alec Stewart. part, this was inherited from his For a start, he will never be father, Micky, the former Surseen sprouting stubble, whether rey captain whose hard-edged fashionable or not. Stewart's brand of management changed England's while attitude to embles, it has been said, an old-Test cricket. He credits his fafashioned American golf pro. ther with instilling the view in

miration. There will not be

much of Michael Athertun.

With his close-cropped hair and his upright stance, nthers liken him more to a marine, especially wheo he thrusts out his chest and strides forth to fulfil his duty on the field, each innings approached as a military mission. He loves his country. So much so that, if he had his way, the England team would start every Test match by sign-

ing the national anthem. He has been accused of being superficial and has at times mocks himself for having a personality that lacks depth. None the less, he plays and lives with an uncluttered philosophy.

Put annther way, he has hancing his Test career, parental involvement held it back.

inevitably led to suggestions of nepotism. In fact, although Alec would teasingly call his father "manager" at home, in a cricket setting the two went out of their way not to acknowledge their relationship. Ian Greig, Alec'a predecessor as Surrey captain, believed that far from en-

It was Australian grade cricket that made a fighter of Stewbe weot to Western Australia every English winter for seven years, playing for the Perth team Midland-Guildford. He kept wicket and because he would bat only once a week learned to make every innings count.

He also learned how tn attack ao apponent verbally, which did not attract the universal approval of his peers and most certainly nut uf his masters. In unly his second Test, he became embroiled in a slanging match with Desmund Haynes and on his first tour was fined for dissent after over-reacting to an umpire's decision.

He was accused, like his father to some extent, of having the mentality of a footballer, althrugh given both their pasts this should come as no surprise. Micky played professionally for Charlton Athletic, while Alec turned nut for Corinthian Casuals in the Isthmian League when he was 17 and for a long time was more interested in a career in the winter game. But having chosen cricket he

When he won his first Test has reached this point in his cacap, Micky was in charge, which reer with no doubts over his ability or his temperament. The only unanswered question, curiously, concerns whether, as a cap tain, he is a winner. If the shado cast by his father bothers him all it is because under Micky leadership in the 1950s, Surn dominated the County Champ unship, winning title after titl During his own five-year tenur at The Oval, from 1991-96, on in the final year, in the Sunda League, did a team awash wit

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